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Arab-Israeli Talks

Gaza-Jericho Committees Resume Talks

NC2911152493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—A Palestinian-Israeli committee, working within the framework of the Gaza-Jericho talks, resumed its meetings in al-'Arish today. The committee is discussing ways of transferring civilian administration, services, and infrastructure in Gaza and Jericho from Israeli to Palestinian hands. The committee began its meetings last Tuesday [23 November]. The Palestinian side to the talks is led by lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, from the Gaza Strip. Gadi Zohar, head of the Israeli civilian authority in the occupied Arab territory, leads the Israeli team.

Another Palestinian-Israeli committee, one focusing on security affairs, resumed its meetings in Cairo today. The committee is to discuss a number of issues concerning the security conditions in Gaza and Jericho. This committee began its meetings last week. It is examining the issue of passageways connecting Gaza and Jericho and linking both with the West Bank, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, as well as the location of mines planted by Israel on its borders with Jordan.

Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah movement in Cairo and member of the committee meeting in al-'Arish, said that progress in the talks depends on Israel easing its hardline position, which, he pointed out, is based on a mistaken interpretation of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles and its clauses. Al-Qidrah added that the Palestinian side insists on a clear and unambiguous interpretation.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources in Cairo speak of a gap separating the positions of the two sides. The Israelis say that the area of Jericho is no more than 30 square km, while the Palestinians, citing the administrative map before the 1967 war, maintain that the area in question is 340 km.

The Palestinian sources point out that there are differences concerning the borders of Gaza and Jericho and the passageways linking them with each other, with the rest of Palestinian territories, and with Israel. The question of releasing 13,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails has not yet been resolved, the sources say.

Palestinian Affairs

Clinton Meeting With Rushdie Termed 'Mistake'

TA2911201493 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Nov 93 pp 3, 7

[Editorial: "Clinton Shows Hostility Toward Muslims"]

[Excerpts] Whoever advised U.S. President Bill Clinton to meet at the White House with Salman Rushdie, the British writer of Indian origin and author of the notorious book *The Satanic Verses*, which insulted the Islamic faith and religion, made a mistake. The late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni issued a religious decree in 1989 calling for Salman Rushdie's death. Since that time, Rushdie had been living in fear as a fugitive and out of sight. Most Muslims had almost forgotten Rushdie, but his meeting with the U.S. President last Wednesday is considered a turning point, because he will again become a target for pursuit after managing to live in oblivion.

Although many Muslims do not support the idea of killing Salman Rushdie our comment here is about U.S. President Clinton and the reason he met with Rushdie while knowing the extent of the Muslims' hatred toward a person who defamed their faith and hurt their feelings. Clinton has placed himself in a difficult position with 1 billion world Muslims. Clinton has become the most hated personality for receiving Rushdie, because there was no justification for such a meeting unless the objective was to challenge all Muslims and scoff at them and their faith. How can Clinton receive a person who showed contempt for the prophet of Islam and the message of this religion? [passage omitted]

The U.S. Administration under the leadership of Clinton is required to reassess its policy toward Muslims before relations between Islamic nations and the Americans become more tense. There is a reaction in the Islamic world to the West's assault against Muslims. What is happening to Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina is best proof of the Western policy of ethnic cleansing of Muslims in Europe. Acts of violence against Muslims in Germany is another example. The West's policy against Muslims is totally inconsistent with claims of supporting democracy and respecting human rights throughout the world. The United States is behaving as if it wants to subdue and force the Islamic nation down to its knees. It is waging a real war against us—an international legal war, an economic war, and a cultural war. This is an all-out war against our existence with the aim of eliminating us. [passage omitted]

Fatah Hawks Resume 'Intensive' Military Action

NC2911153393 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 29 Nov 93

[By Sakhr Abu-Al-'Awn]

[Text] Khan Yunis, Occupied Gaza Strip, Nov 29 (AFP)—Guerrillas from Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement announced Monday they were resuming an "intensive" armed struggle in Gaza after Israel killed another of their number.

Fatah's armed wing, the Hawks, released a statement mobilising all fighters and declaring a "resumption of intensive military action" against Israeli targets.

The PLO leader ordered a ceasefire following the signing of the September 13 Palestinian autonomy accord and

his Hawks had observed it, but the Israelis have continued to pursue many of them and stepped up the manhunt at the weekend.

"We are announcing this because Israel has broken the agreement and as revenge for Ahmad Abu-Rish," a masked militant told a press conference.

Abu-Rish, one of about 30 Fatah men who turned himself in to the Israelis and was taken off the wanted list, was killed along with a bystander Sunday night.

He was the second Hawk militant killed by Israel since the autonomy deal.

Two other fighters, who are wanted for murdering a settler, came to his house in Khan Yunis refugee camp chased by Israeli undercover troops, Palestinian sources said.

The two managed to escape, but Abu-Rish died in the shootout.

"Today we have already carried out three attacks against Israeli targets in Khan Yunis," the masked man said.

Palestinian sources reported that three Hawks attacked troops on the edge of the Khan Yunis military base. No injuries were reported in an exchange of fire, the first time Hawks had attacked soldiers since the autonomy deal.

"We will carry on with our armed attacks against Israeli soldiers until the occupation is finished in the Gaza Strip," the militant vowed.

Ten of the 50 armed Hawks who have not been amnestied attended the Khan Yunis press conference following the burial of Abu-Rish at which thousands of Palestinians from all factions called for revenge.

The Hawks' announcement came as Israel and the PLO resumed talks in Egypt in a bid to reach agreement on implementation of the autonomy deal before a December 13 deadline.

In Gaza City, Fatah leaders distanced themselves from the call to arms.

"The Israelis are not committed to the agreement because they are still hunting and killing Palestinians," said Diyab Al-Lawh, a member of Fatah's "High Committee" on the Gaza Strip.

But he described the killing as an "incident" and added that Fatah Hawks should still obey orders. "They are part of Fatah and they are committed to the strategy for the peace process decided by the leadership in Tunis."

Sufyan Abu-Zaydah, a senior Fatah man, said the Israelis had informed Fatah that the killing was unintentional. PLO headquarters in Tunis would decide what to do about the escalation, he added.

Palestinians marched through Khan Yunis carrying the body of Abu-Rish wrapped in a Palestinian flag shouting "No peace with the enemy".

Soldiers who approached the cemetery came under a hail of stones and withdrew after opening fire and wounding one Palestinian. The army sealed off the town and camp where tensions ran high as youths burnt tyres and blocked roads.

Fatah and the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, whose military chief on the Gaza Strip was gunned down last Wednesday sparking violent clashes, both called a three-day protest strike in Khan Yunis.

The strike call closed shops and business throughout the West Bank and Gaza City where soldiers shot and wounded two teenagers, correspondents said.

The death came after the arrest of 32 Fatah members or supporters in recent days, at least two of whom had already been taken off the list of wanted Palestinians, in the biggest crackdown on Fatah since the signing of the agreement. Most had been released by Monday, military sources said.

Twenty-six Palestinians have been killed by Israeli bullets since September 13, according to an AFP toll.

Fatah Gaza Leader Urges Israel To Honor Accord

JN2911181193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1558 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Interview with Dhiyab al-Lawh, head of Political Committees in the Gaza Strip, by Hasan Abu-Zayid, following a news conference at the office of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Gaza; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Zayid] A news conference has been held at the office of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Gaza. Several leaders of the Fatah Movement in the Gaza Strip spoke at this conference. The Fatah leaders asked the Israeli Government to end the pursuit of fugitives in the Gaza Strip and to avert a recurrence of what took place in Khan Yunus yesterday.

Dhiyab al-Lawh, head of Political Committees in Gaza Strip, do you have anything to say?

[Al-Lawh] Israeli troops have continued to pursue Palestinian fugitives in the Gaza Strip. Yesterday, a Palestinian fugitive who had been pardoned was killed. We are asking the Israeli side to fully honor the provisions enshrined in the accord, particularly with regard to the practices and actions taking place in Gaza Strip. This is because the Palestinian side has honored its commitments. Hence, the Israeli side must reciprocate.

[Abu-Zayid] Have you made any decisions at this news conference?

[Al-Lawh] We have explained to journalists the facts pertaining to what has happened. We have made it clear that we will contact the Israeli side through the Palestinian political leadership, namely, the PLO leadership, which will ask the Israeli side to fully honor the accord.

[Abu-Zayid] Dhiyab al-Lawh: Seven members of the Fatah Eagles cells have announced that they will continue their attacks on Israeli targets, and on Israeli defense troops. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Lawh] The Fatah Eagles have complied with the instructions issued by the Palestinian leadership and respected the accord signed by the PLO leadership and the Israeli Government. What has taken place in Khan Yunus was a reaction to the Israeli troops' operation and the assassination of a Fatah eagle.

[Abu-Zayid] Do you believe that such operations will be individual operations in reaction to this operation?

[Al-Lawh] To the best of our knowledge, the Fatah Eagles fully respect the instructions issued by the Palestinian leadership. There are no violations of these instructions. Moreover, they have not received any directives to violate previous instructions in this regard.

'Confusion' in Lebanon Over Fatah Appointments

PM2911142093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Nov 93 p 3

[Muhammad Shuqayr report: "Confusion Among Palestinian Leaderships; New Appointments Denied"]

[Excerpts] Beirut—The Palestinian scene in Lebanon in general and the south in particular is dominated by a state of confusion as a result of the ongoing controversy over whether or not it is true that President Yasir 'Arafat has backtracked on a decision he took last month appointing Badi' Karim commander of Fatah forces in Lebanon in place of Colonel Munir al-Maqdah, who announced his strong opposition to the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

A number of Fatah officials, first and foremost Badi' Karim and Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, emphasize that what was attributed to 'Arafat, namely that he has reconsidered the appointment decision, is untrue. And that "the leaks are merely trial balloons released to the media by some organs with a view to causing a state of confusion among the movement's ranks and supporters." The Fatah officials' statements contradict what was said by Col. al-Maqdah, who confirms that 'Arafat took this decision and that he himself rejects this decision and will not implement it because his dispute with Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is not organizational, but political. And that it began with ['Arafat's] refusal to answer a number of questions which he asked with regard to the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

It seems that the controversy over whether or not the decision is true will continue until 'Arafat issues a clarification of his position and puts an end to the dual leadership in Lebanon, as each group is claiming it has the legitimacy to allow it to speak in Fatah's name. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH asked Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, commander of the Tire zone in Fatah, over the telephone about the truth of the reports of 'Arafat's decision to rehabilitate Fatah's former commander Col. al-Maqdah; he ruled out that such a decision could have been issued, emphasizing that "the organizational situation remains as it stands and no change has occurred in it." He accused "intelligence organs" which he did not name of leaking the report "to cause confusion in the camps."

Badi' Karim told AL-HAYAH that all that has been reported in this connection is merely a pack of lies which are untrue. "No decision of this kind has been issued by 'Arafat, and if it had been, we would have been the first to know of it through our daily contacts with the Palestinian authorities in Tunis, instead of learning of it from the media."

Karim accused Fatah opponents of leaking the report about organizational changes. He emphasized: "We will not engage in these lies, which are designed to cause sensitivities between us and brother Munir al-Maqdah, who is still working inside the movement." [passage omitted]

Karim added: "At any rate, if such a decision was issued, we would have been the first to comply with the commander in chief's orders. We are not going to violate the will of Palestinian legitimacy." He revealed that "the leak of information about so-called new appointments coincided with the preparations to move our forces to Gaza and Jericho following the orders we received from 'Arafat, and was aimed at spreading a state of confusion and obstructing current preparations." He said that the forces being prepared are 3,500 strong. "We are currently listing the names on our register and preparing them so as to use the major section of this force in police, security, and municipalities."

Karim said that "this force has been prepared unilaterally, but at a direct request from 'Arafat, who ordered the various arenas to begin immediately to prepare the elements capable of joining the police and security and municipal organs." [passage omitted]

On the fate of Fatah weapons inside the camps, Karim said that "it depends on the political signal which we may receive from our leadership in Tunis, and the matter is linked to a political situation. We will not resist any decision we receive from 'Arafat. It is also being discussed between the PLO and the Lebanese Government."

He denied that some groups belonging—or formerly belonging—to Fatah have sold their weapons. He said: "None of us sells his weapon, nor do we need to sell the weapons. Besides, no one buys these weapons under current conditions, which are witnessing serious attempts to achieve a just peace in the region." [passage omitted]

'Arafat Urges UN To Provide Financial Support

LD2911234993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Nov 93

["Text" of message by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the chairman of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people on 29 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency Kebe Birani Sissay, chairman of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, best greetings to you:

I am pleased on the occasion of 29 November, which is the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, to express to you on behalf of our Palestinian people and my brothers—the members of the PLO Executive Committee, the new Palestinian national authority—and in my own name, our best greetings and wishes. I thank very much His Excellency Kebe Birani Sissay, chairman of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, for the great and important efforts that he has made and is still making in order to affirm the Palestinian people's rights and to make them known in all fields and at all levels.

I also thank very much His Excellency Dr. Butrus-Ghali, the UN secretary general, for following up diligently and for his interest in and care for your honorable committee. These are the valuable efforts he is making in order to strengthen the UN role in resolving international crises and, in particular, the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue that is its core.

In this respect, I praise the great and important role that the United Nations, its institutions, and specialized agencies—as well as its Palestine department—have played and are still playing in safeguarding, consolidating, affirming, and maintaining of the Palestinian people's rights, and in giving aid to our people in order to reduce their sufferings and the conditions of their tragic existence. In all this, your honorable committee has had an important and prominent role.

I also thank very much their excellencies the ambassadors, the representatives of the member states in your committee, and express warm thanks for the stances of support that they have adopted and are still adopting toward the just struggle of our Palestinian people in order that they recover and practice their national inalienable rights—including their right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Your excellency the chairman, brothers, sisters, and friends: This meeting of your honorable committee comes amidst important circumstances and changes that are witnessed by our Middle East region and that place the latter at strategic crossroads. These will either push it toward the process of democracy, development, and prosperity—and will thus enable it to take its positive role in formulating a promising future for their peoples, which will contribute to strengthening peace and stability in the region and in the world—or will make it return to the circle of chaos, wars, calamities, and Balkanization, as well as the dangers resulting from that which would impose the forces of obscurantism and backwardness, with all the dangerous threat they mean for peace and security in the whole world.

This is a picture of the reality in which we have lived since the signing of the declaration of principles and the mutual recognition between the PLO and the Israeli Government. That agreement constitutes a great turning point in the history of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is the fundamental step for our common efforts for the establishment of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region on the basis of the resolutions of international legality, including UN Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338.

It is necessary to achieve tangible progress on all other tracks until Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem, is achieved.

The declaration of principles agreement—which we signed in Washington on 13 September 1993—specifies the full withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, where the national Palestinian authority will be set up, while the rest of the West Bank will come under the transitional stage. Issues concerning the West Bank will be discussed along with Arab Jerusalem, the refugees, and the fate of settlements in a period that does not go beyond the beginning of the third year to decide its final status.

The agreement also specifies holding free legislative elections to elect the Palestinian council, which would have wide legislative responsibilities in all the occupied Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem.

At the same time, we are working on building infrastructures and vital institutions to turn this agreement into reality. Because of this, the Palestinian Central Council endorsed this agreement and set up the Palestinian national authority, which chose me to be its chairman. We set up the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction for planning purposes, to draw up an economic policy in the Palestinian land, to pinpoint projects, to draw them up, and to implement them. We are preparing the Palestinian security forces, which are considered one of the pillars for bolstering peace, security, and stability in the region.

The success of this agreement depends, however, in the first place, on the intentions and keenness of both parties to faithfully implement its articles in the spirit of understanding and equality, while solving hidden differences and calamities that arise through peaceful dialogue and arbitration. The desire of the international community—which witnessed the agreement—to make the

agreement succeed made it provide necessary aid. That requires a lot of sincere effort by all brothers and friends and those wanting just peace in the whole world.

It is not a secret that we will rebuild from scratch the infrastructures—the Palestinian national institutions, the infrastructure of our national economy—from scratch, and that is because the Israeli occupying forces and the local Israeli administration destroyed most of them and all the Palestinian infrastructure. This places big financial, material, and spiritual responsibilities on our shoulders, which makes us require the support of the international community on all levels—all sorts of political, economic, financial, and spiritual help.

Thus, while we express our thanks to the countries that promised to provide $2.2 billion for five years as a contribution from them in this difficult process, we stress that the programs that we have drawn up with help from the World Bank and friendly powers require much more than has been earmarked until now. What is required is more than $12 billion until the end of this century.

In this context, we see that the implementation of this agreement puts additional responsibilities on the United Nations, its organizations, agencies, and its member states, to contribute alongside us toward building and construction during the stages of implementation of the agreement in order to guarantee it, consolidate it, and to supervise its various phases.

The United Nations has an important and an active role in peacekeeping around the world. Implementing this historic agreement is part of the peacekeeping process in the world. We call on the Untied Nations to help us in different aspects and all fields to develop this role on the land of our national Palestinian authority, while the chances for peace and stability are strengthened in our region, which is of strategic importance to the world.

We realize the great importance of the UN role in helping our people carry out numerous programs and plans and educational, health, and environment projects; and in preserving the heritage and the holy places through its specialized bodies and agencies and through the UN Development Program, UNRWA, UNIDO, UNESCO and UNICEF. These programs affect our people's daily life, which must be improved so that they can feel the benefits of this just peace, consolidate its foundations, and publicize throughout the entire region.

Ladies and gentlemen: We want to build a society in which the Israeli occupation has managed to destroy all national institutions and infrastructures of the national economy. Our efforts in building this homeland will be on a par with our dreams and our people's dreams to build our independent state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital, and the building of an open modern society based on justice, social cooperation, and free-market economy—a society based on democracy, pluralism, and political participation by all the social forces among the people's sons; a society based not on racism and hatred, but on justice and equality before law, respect for human rights and respect for basic and political freedoms; a dynamic society in which women and men take part and which provides opportunities for our people to take initiatives and make sacrifices; a society based on good-neighbourliness; a society based on forgiveness and love in accordance with the history of our people and their culture and heritage in their homeland, Palestine, which God has designated as the place of descent of the divine messages to man; and the land of prophets and saints, the place of ascent of our prophet Muhammad, may God's payers and peace be upon him, and the birthplace of Jesus, may peace be upon him.

Brother chairman, sisters, brothers, and friends: The achievement of a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in Palestine and the Middle East is a great, noble human goal for which we have always worked. All of us, including your honorable committee, have given the best example and evidence of these tremendous efforts to reach it, because peace is a Palestinian, Israeli, Arab, regional, and international responsibility. It means the solving of the problems and reasons that led to the deterioration of the situation, the accumulation of crises, and the outbreak of wars. For half a century, our region has lived through a critical phase of instability, wars, and political, economic and social problems that exhausted its energy and potential and prevented its peoples, in the forefront of whom was our Palestinian people, from achieving development, security, and growth, and continued to form a dangerous threat to international peace and security. Thus, your honorable committee acquires a special, great importance in following up on the implementation of the inalienable rights of our Palestinian people, particularly in the transitional period, on the way to the final phase and the establishment of the Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital because of its importance to and direct influence on the future of peace and cooperation in our region and the whole world. [sentence as heard] Because the alternative to peace is explosion, chaos, Balkanization, and wars, let us all work toward consolidating the just and comprehensive peace in the land of peace, in Palestine, in the region, and in the world.

From here we look up to you with more hope to help our people so that we become capable of making the just peace successful for our people and the peoples of the region, so that our children and theirs can live in a bright and secure future.

I thank you once more and I wish you success.

Denmark Turns Down 'Arafat Request for Embassy

AU2911205293 Paris AFP in English 2036 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Copenhagen, Nov 29 (AFP)—Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen on Monday turned down a request by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to grant embassy status to the Palestine Liberation Organization's future

office in Copenhagen, saying "Denmark recognizes states and not governments."

Rasmussen said he told the PLO leader, who was on a 30-hour visit to Denmark, that he considered the PLO "as the representative of the Palestinian people" and that "its representatives could benefit from certain diplomatic rights," but that authorizing a proper embassy was "out of the question."

"The question of diplomatic relations must be discussed in concertation with the other European Community members," he said.

The PLO had an office in Copenhagen between 1987 and 1990, when it was closed for financial reasons brought about by the Gulf War.

'Arafat—who was on the last leg of a fund-seeking Scandinavian tour which also took him to Norway, Sweden and Finland—told the press he regretted that no state had granted sufficient funds for the daily operation of the PLO's schools, hospitals and other institutions.

He also stressed the importance of respecting the Israeli-PLO peace accord timetable, saying that should the plan fail it would be the fault of Israel and the agreement's overseers: the United States and Russia.

'Arafat said the December 13 deadline, when Israeli troops are to begin withdrawing from Jericho and the Gaza Strip, is "sacred" and "must be respected."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last week that the timetable provided target dates only and could be delayed if necessary.

"We ask, in accordance with the peace plan, which is an international plan, that the clauses and its integral application in the field be rigorously and honestly respected," 'Arafat said. "Israel's lack of respect of this agreement would affect it seriously."

Asked about the recent escalation of violence in the occupied territories, 'Arafat said that "Mr. Rabin does not control his army, when it kills in cold blood (Monday) two courageous supporters of Fatah (the PLO's main faction) who had decided to put aside their arms and offer to join hands with the Israelis."

"This is unbelievable and unacceptable," he added, while questioning the goal of killing "people who are not even actively participating in the armed struggle."

'Arafat said he was "disappointed and surprised" that Israel proposed to redeploy its troops in the occupied territories, rather than to withdraw them as stipulated in the peace agreement.

"We are paying a high price for peace," he declared.

The PLO leader said he had received a message from Rabin in Tunis overnight Sunday. Although he refused to reveal its contents, it is thought to concern a possible meeting between the two men.

Earlier on Monday, 'Arafat met with speaker of parliament Henning Rasmussen before being received for 10 minutes by Queen Margrethe at the Amalienborg Palace.

The traditional midday changing of the palace's royal guard was brought forward 10 minutes because of the tight security arrangements surrounding 'Arafat's visit.

After a working lunch with Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, 'Arafat met in the afternoon with Petersen, Prime Minister Rasmussen and Cooperation Minister Helle Degn to discuss the peace plan and Denmark's 250 million krone (36.8 million dollars) in promised reconstruction aid.

The PLO leader described his tour as "constructive, successful and useful." He was to be the guest of honour at a dinner given by the prime minister before returning to Tunis late Monday evening.

Territories Figures Leave for Tunis Meeting

TA2911183293 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, attorney Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's advisor, left for Tunis today to participate in the Palestinian leadership's consultations.

Palestinian delegation member Walid Zaqqut said today that the leadership meetings in Tunis, which will begin tonight, must discuss the nature of the Palestinian leadership at this stage on the basis of negating individualism in national action and creating a collective mechanism for democratic reforms in the PLO. Walid Zaqqut told our correspondent that the Palestinian Democratic Federation [Fida] calls on Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership to develop and expand Palestinian participation by all factions in the decisionmaking process. This would result in a sound mechanism for conducting the talks with Israel.

'Abd-al-Shafi Not Invited to Meeting

TA2911161493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 2

[By Salih Abu-Hamad]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, yesterday evening denied that he had been summoned, together with some other members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, to Tunis to attend the extraordinary meeting which the Palestinian leadership is to hold there to review the impasse in the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that he did not receive anything official in this regard. In answer to the question as to

whether he will consider participating in this meeting if he were asked to do so. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that he would not indulge in speculation.

PNC's Subayh Urges Dismantling of Settlements

PM2911093093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 93 p 3

[Interview with Palestine National Council Secretary Muhammad Subayh by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] After the recent series of Palestinian-Israeli disagreements, do you believe that Israel will really begin to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on the date set?

[Subayh] I believe that Israel will work to implement what is mentioned in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and begin to withdraw its forces and Army as of the morning of 14 December. We insist on the full implementation of what has been agreed, and the Israeli Army should be gathered in the West Bank after seven months.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What about the fate of the Israeli settlements in Gaza?

[Subayh] First, the settlements are illegal in accordance with the UN and Security Council resolutions. I believe that the right solution will be conducted in a manner similar to what happened in Sinai, where settlements were dismantled.

I point out here that the settlements were set up for political reasons in the days of the Likud for the purpose of provocation and to prevent the achievement of peace agreements.

I believe that the presence of some 2,000 armed settlers in the Gaza Strip threatens the future of peace and stability. Because most, if not all, of them are fanatics. We are currently trying to discuss the question of moving them into Israel.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe that these fanatics will agree to leave their settlements?

[Subayh] We have information indicating that they have actually begun to search for accommodations inside Israel, because if they stay under Palestinian self-rule, they will be treated on an equal footing with all Gaza inhabitants, hence losing all the privileges granted to them at present.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What about the upcoming meeting between the Fatah and Hamas leaderships in Sanaa?

[Subayh] Contacts are still continuing and the desire still stands, but no date has yet been set for the meeting.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why has the Palestinian struggle over posts begun early?

[Subayh] The question of allocating posts and what is reported in this connection is absolutely baseless. The aim is to arouse confusion and suspicion regarding the unity of Palestinian ranks. This question is deferred until the return.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you fear for the accord's future from Palestinian opponents?

[Subayh] Numerous elements are seeking to torpedo this agreement, first and foremost fanatics in Israel, the Likud, and others. But I believe that the desire for peace is stronger than the attempts of all these.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you view the hitch in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations?

[Subayh] We hope that the brothers in Syria and the other Arab brothers will recover all their occupied territories, and we are working to achieve this. Because it is difficult to have stability in the region without the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace and the return of all the occupied Arab territories.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you agree with the view that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has destroyed Arab coordination?

[Subayh] On the contrary, we are interested in the unity of Arab ranks more than any other Arabs, and we always call for continuing the five-way coordination and cooperation among the states directly concerned with the peace process, that is Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt.

PLA Fighters Prepare To Join Police Force

NC2611041493 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 26 (AFP)—Some 1,500 Palestinian fighters based in Iraq are preparing to join the Palestinian police force being set up in the Israeli-occupied territories, the PLO's Baghdad representative 'Awwad al-Ahmad said Sunday [28 November].

The fighters, members of the Palestine Liberation Army—the PLO's armed wing—were due to have travelled to Jordan in the past few days, but were delayed because of problems which emerged at the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Cairo, al-Ahmad said.

The group included 25 officers currently undergoing four days of training in humanitarian police work in Baghdad with a Red Cross representative, Michel Ducreux, the Palestinian official said.

There were around 3,000 PLA soldiers in Iraq, he added.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat recently ordered PLA members in Algeria, Libya, Sudan, Iraq and Yemen to assemble in Egypt and Jordan to form a 9,000-strong Palestinian police force.

Israeli troops are due to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on December 13.

DFLP Leader Vows Moves To Foil Peace Accord

JN2911093493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Nov 93 p 2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—A prominent Palestinian leader Sunday vowed to continue efforts to torpedo the Oslo accord in coordination with opposition factions inside and outside the framework of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) leader Nayif Hawatimah said that opposition to the accord has gained momentum since it was ratified in Washington by the PLO and Israel on Sept. 13.

In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES at his hotel suite, Mr. Hawatimah also ruled out taking part in Palestinian council elections in the occupied territories scheduled for next July.

"The purpose of holding these elections is to have an executive council to implement the Rabin-'Arafat agreement," Mr. Hawatimah said. "We will not take part in such elections."

Accusing PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of trying to avoid holding council elections and appointing people in city and town municipalities in the occupied territories, Mr. Hawatimah said: "There is still a big possibility that the elections will not take place because there is no guarantee that those who want to be rulers will win in the council elections."

The Damascus-based Palestinian leader's visit to Jordan has included a number of meetings with Jordanian and Palestinian groups to gear up pressure on the PLO leadership to drop the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and to muster support for holding a "popular Palestinian national conference" which would come out with a political programme to torpedo the Oslo accord.

In the past week, Mr. Hawatimah discussed these efforts with Jordan's Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies in the Lower House of Parliament, Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) representatives and members of the Palestinian Women's Federation.

The projected "united front" conference, which would result from similar smaller national conferences in the occupied territories and in countries where large Palestinian communities reside, would include the 10 Damascus-based opposition factions and "a majority of" Palestine National Council (PNC) members. Mr. Hawatimah expected that a number of leaders from the main-stream Fatah faction and PLO Executive Committee members would participate, as well as prominent independent Palestinian personalities, such as Edward Sa'id.

"The aim of the conference is to develop a political programme based on torpedoing the Gaza-Jericho agreement and to insist on a solution based on legitimate international and Palestinian resolutions," Mr. Hawatimah explained. "This means Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 194 and 237, and to have the continuation of the intifadah as a practical alternative to the Rabin-'Arafat plan." The U.N. resolutions call for Israel to withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967 and for the return or compensation of refugees from 1948.

Mr. Hawatimah added that the conference would formulate a "collective programme that guarantees unity of the Palestinian people," and would insist on self-determination for the Palestinians, statehood and right of return or compensation.

Although he stressed that the conference must be held before July 13 when council elections are due to take place in the occupied territories, Mr. Hawatimah said that an exact time and place have not yet been determined.

Palestinian sources expect that organisers of the conference might face difficulties in trying to find an Arab government willing to accept to host the meeting on its soil, especially when the majority of the Arab governments are involved in bilateral and multilateral negotiations with Israel.

But the left-wing opposition leader said he believed some Arab governments would allow such a national conference because they have been dealing with the Gaza-Jericho accord "in an economic manner rather than a political one."

Mr. Hawatimah, however, denied that the conference would give birth to an alternative leadership to the PLO. He said that the conference would elect committees representing all the participants to "rebuild the PNC, to put an end to the unilaterality of 'Arafat's wing, and to bring out the legitimacy borne out of popular will... which 'Arafat took away when he accepted the U.S.-Israeli conditions of the Madrid formula for peace talks."

Mr. Hawatimah described the DFLP-Hamas alliance as "modest," based on "urgent and immediate political issues, and not on ideological basis."

"There are major differences in our strategic views where our programme is based on democratic solutions for conflicts, including the Middle East conflict; and Hamas' programme is against all political solutions and calls for an Islamic state on all of historic Palestine," Mr. Hawatimah noted.

"But we put ideology aside to attend to the immediate problems... and here we meet with Hamas on the need to continue the intifadah, independence, and the return of refugees," he added.

The left-wing DFLP and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) allied with Hamas to win Bir Zayt University student council elections against the pro-Oslo accord alliance.

Running together under the "Jerusalem first" ticket, five students from the DFLP and PFLP and four from Hamas won the seats, leaving 'Arafat's Fatah out of the university's student council for the first time.

For Mr. Hawatimah, the victory of the "Jerusalem first" bloc was a strong indication of the mounting popular discontent and opposition to the Gaza-Jericho accord, especially when Israel had not changed its approach and has recently allocated hundreds of millions of shekels to expand the settlements.

Asked whether he would oppose a similar agreement between Syria and Israel, Mr. Hawatimah said he was for a comprehensive peace and against "any partial and unilateral agreement."

"If Syria strikes a bilateral deal instead of a comprehensive one, we will give a big no, and we will not take into account any negative measures they might take against us," Mr. Hawatimah insisted. "The administrative facilities and logistics are not our priority; our priority is on a level of higher national interest."

People's Party Leader Views National Authority

PM2611144793 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Nov 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Bashir al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party, by Wafa' 'Amr in Amman; date not given]

[Text] Bashir al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party, has said that he believes it is too early to say whether his party will join the Palestinian national authority or the provisional government in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI al-Barghuthi, who is currently on a visit to Amman, said: "I believe that it is too early to decide on participation in a national authority when it is not yet clear on what territory it will be, by what laws it will operate, or what its agreed powers are."

Al-Barghuthi said that it is too early to judge the so-called national authority. As for the People's Party's position, al-Barghuthi said "we are for a democratic national authority that has a basic constitutional law that separates powers, believes in democratic freedom, prepares conditions for free elections in the occupied territories in accordance with the declaration of principles, and pursues an economic policy aimed at achieving rapid progress in economic building and in raising inhabitants' living standard and at achieving political and economic coordination with neighboring Arab states, especially with Jordan because of the great interconnection between the two sides' interests."

However, al-Barghuthi emphasized that so far all this remains merely an aspiration, "and the authority to be established will reflect the results of the negotiations over implementation of the declaration of principles."

Al-Barghuthi explained the position adopted by the People's Party since the beginning of the peace process as observations offered by the party to the Palestinian leadership in order to get as much benefit as possible from the current negotiations. He said, "From the outset we have said that the declaration of principles contains two possibilities: Either it will put us on the road to independence or lead us to hell."

He pointed out that the matters depend on the Palestinian leadership's treatment of the declaration of principles: "Should we treat it as a struggle tool on the ground and at the negotiating table, or should we treat it as a note? I hope we are going to treat it with sufficient struggle determination."

Al-Barghuthi stressed that what is required at present is to form a committee to supervise negotiation—"Collective leadership is not a luxury. It has its direct impact not only on the negotiations but on the economic status of the occupied territories as well."

Al-Barghuthi added that his party demands the formation of specialized committees to draw up a democratic constitutional document that organizes and defines the nature and powers of the Palestinian national authority, its relationship with the masses, and its economic policy at the local, Arab, and foreign level. He also demanded that the entire current method be changed, that is to replace the administrative dealings method with a democratic method, especially with the change in objective conditions.

He pointed out that common denominators among the various groups of society must be taken account of, and a policy should be formulated on the basis of these denominators.

10 Opposition Factions Urge Referendum

TA2911174593 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Damascus, QUDS PRESS—Ten Palestinian factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles accord and the Middle East peace talks have called for holding a referendum among Palestinians over the points of dispute between them and the PLO leadership. A statement issued by the 10 Palestinian factions yesterday said: We renew the call for holding a general referendum, inside and outside, on matters that harm our people's national rights. The statement added: The victory of "Jerusalem First" bloc, which supports the

opposition factions, in Bi'r Zayt University elections "was a tangible referendum in which leading Palestinian youths affirmed, with a majority, their clear position against the 'Arafat-Rabin accord."

The 10 factions also called for boycotting the self-rule elections.

In the first direct attack on the Palestinian police force that is expected to enter the occupied territories within framework of implementing the self-rule accord, the statement said: Escalating suppression by the Israeli Army and the acts perpetrated by settlers coincide with the arrival of the first batch of the Palestinian police force, which will be an additional tool of suppression.

Algeria

Exchange Rate of Dinar To Be Freed

LD2911134293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] At the end of the symposium on the promotion of investment Minister [Delegate] for Light and Medium Industry Redha Hamiani stated that Algeria will not guarantee a rate for the exchange of the dinar as of next year and that economic investors should, therefore, include the fluctuation of the exchange rate in their estimates. Mr. Hamiani added that the Algerian market will be opened up over the next two years. There will be no protection for domestic products if they are of bad quality nor will there be import quotas for the Algerian businessman, he asserted.

Teachers To Continue Strike

LD2711135493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Today, the third day of the strike by teaching staff, the National Federation of Teaching Staff held a news conference at the People's Hall in Algiers. Speaking on behalf of the federation, its secretary general, Aissa Nouasri, announced that the strike would continue, and demanded a direct dialogue with the ministry concerned. Over to Souad Selimi, who has more details from Mr. Nouasri:

[Begin Nouasri recording] This news conference is aimed at challenging all the false statements made by the education minister. Unfortunately, these statements contained scandalous fallacies. Therefore it was necessary for us to hold this conference to clarify our position for the public and the teaching community to help make them aware of the truth. The truth is that our demands are purely social, professional and pedagogical.

As regards the strike, it will remain in force until 29 November, in accordance with the decision made by the national conference. Since our demands have not been met, the strike is therefore legal. We are waiting for the ministry to address the real problems effectively, and should it fail to respond favorably we will be forced to implement the decision made by the national conference on an indefinite strike after the weekend and at the start of the first week [sentence as heard]. [end recording]

Four People Killed Over Weekend; 'Terrorists' Arrested

LD2911200793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The security services announced today that four citizens were assassinated by terrorists on Saturday and Sunday in the central and eastern regions of the country.

The security services have also announced that they had arrested 17 terrorists in Tlemcen last week.

Also seven terrorists, who took part in the criminal arson attack on the electronic factory in Telagh in Sidi Bel Abbes Province, were arrested.

Bouslimani's Kidnappers Telephone Followers

LD2911225193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] In a statement to APS news agency, the Reform and Guidance Society has announced that it has received a telephone call from the kidnappers of its leader, Mohamed Bouslimani, who was kidnapped by armed men last friday in Ouled Yaich, near Blida. The society made clear that the kidnappers, who claimed responsibility, allowed Mr. Bouslimani to talk with members of his society by telephone.

The statement concludes that the Society has not yet confirmed the source of this call.

Ministry Statement on Foreign Donations to Political Groups

LD2811211593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The Interior Ministry issued today a statement addressed to political organizations. The statement called on the legitimate parties to show respect for the law when receiving donations from abroad. Here is the statement:

The Interior, Local Communities Ministry reminds the organizations managed according to Law No. 90/31, dated 4 December 1990, that their links with the outside, in particular with other international associations and organizations, remain subject to the rulings of Article 21 of the aforementioned law and the strict respect for the legislative and legal rulings in effect.

These rulings basically apply to donations proposed by the foreign associations and bodies in all their forms.

In this respect, the associations in question are required to obtain a permit for that from the Interior, Local Communities Ministry every time a need arises.

Thus, disrespect for these recommendations would subject those concerned to the penalties specified by the laws.

Egypt

Interior Minister Comments on Terrorism

NC2911221093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi made a statement to the People's Assembly's Defense and National Security Committee this evening. He stated that the terrorist attempt on Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's life represented a new escalation of the terrorist scheme; that security policy is part and parcel of the government's

overall policy; and that the instructions given to the government include provisions to defend the homeland's and the citizens' safety, confront terrorism firmly, and enhance the stability that is necessary for economic reform.

The interior minister reported that very important clues have been uncovered in connection with the attempted assassination of the prime minister, pointing out that details of these clues will be made public soon.

He added that plans have been drawn up to exploit all available resources in the most efficient way possible in an overall and decisive confrontation with extremism and terrorism. He said that the task of defending the homeland and the citizens and confronting terrorism is viewed by police officers and the men under their command as a patriotic, moral, and civilized commitment, noting that they have not, and will not, refrain from sacrificing effort and even blood for this objective.

The interior minister said the public's participation would complement the security forces' efforts and that indeed, this participation is a decisive factor in the fateful issues that the nation faces.

Al-Alfi then answered questions by members of the People's Assembly's Defense and National Security Committee, declaring that there will be no dialogue with terrorists and extremists who perpetrate crimes and break the law.

He announced: As interior minister I enforce the law. I do not conduct a dialogue with murderers. The Interior Ministry now possesses complete data on the organizations that carry out terrorist acts.

Remarking that the incidents of the past few months have demonstrated the full cooperation between the public and the police, he announced that many examples of this cooperation will shortly be made public.

His excellency reported that a bill pertaining to the appointment of village mayors and headmen will be referred to the People's Assembly within one month.

Report on Secret Trial of Terrorists Denied

NC2911204193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—An official source today deplored a report published by the U.S. news agency Associated Press about a secret trial of two terrorists. The source said the agency made charges that we have not heard of before.

The source announced: No secret trials at all occur in Egypt. Everything takes place publicly in the context of freedom of press and unrestricted publishing, a basic foundation of democracy.

The source added: Egyptian authorities take care to allow foreign correspondents and photographers to attend such trials, although many countries with a long history of democracy do not permit the same. Nevertheless, this U.S. news agency, a news organization with a long history of journalism, comes up with this fabricated story which is totally without foundation.

Commentary Says People 'United' Against Terrorism

NC2611165493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Zayn al-Ja'fari commentary: "Once Again, the Hands of Treachery Kill Children in Egypt"]

[Text] At a time when Egypt was celebrating Children's Day—the children who represent the real smile on the face of this homeland, who represent our hopes for a better future; the innocent children, children who even the prophets honor—the hands of the enemies of Egypt and its people came out in cowardice and vileness to kill innocent children, to destroy the smile on the face of parents, and to impede every effort by the state to alleviate the burdens of a large sector of this homeland's citizens who have stood fast and suffered for the sake of Egypt. It is these citizens who are helping the government in every sphere of activity in order to complete the economic reform process and entrench the democratic process. These two constitute the principal foundations that will allow Egypt to enter the 21st century assured of the status it deserves amid all the other countries.

We make a mistake if we link these elements to Islam or to any divine religion, because the crimes committed by these elements are inimical to what religion teaches. They are as far from religion as they could possibly be. No one is deceived any more by these elements' claims that they are operating on the basis of religious principles. Religion is innocent of these elements. Religion is innocent of the crime of homicide. God forbids the killing of any person without due process of law. What legal reason can these elements claim when they kill children and squander the citizens' wealth? The device that exploded yesterday afternoon in a desperate attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi killed a schoolgirl and wounded 18 citizens, including four young schoolgirls. The explosion also destroyed at least ten vehicles, which burst into flames. Divine Providence willed that the prime minister and his companions escape and not one of them was harmed.

If these elements have any differences with the government, then why don't they resort to dialogue and try to make their case in a legal manner? Religion urges this course of action, not death and destruction. It does not urge homicide in contravention of the will of God, the destruction of the homeland's resources, and preventing millions of citizens from earning an honest living.

We say to those who planted this bomb: Where is your conscience? What if your own child was the one killed in such an explosion? What would you do? It is very certain that the person behind this vile crime cannot be an

Egyptian who belongs to this good earth and to this people which is known to be tolerant and kindhearted, as Islam teaches. It is almost certain that those who perpetrated this crime are a faction tasked with carrying out a plot that harbors no good for Egypt or its sons. The ultimate objective of this attempt was to cause confusion and undermine security and stability, which are the main bases for attracting investments and expanding the economic development that provides more jobs for our youth and helps solve the unemployment problem, to which the government is giving top priority. We all know that such a problem cannot be solved overnight for innumerable social and economic reasons. We don't believe that everyone is ignorant of these reasons.

We stress here that shootings, assassinations, and the shedding of blood will never achieve any objective. On the contrary, they will only bolster the united stand of the entire people in defending their lives, security, stability, and livelihoods. Are these deceived elements not content with the slump in tourism and the economy due to their operations, a slump that caused a massive drop in state revenues and deprived millions of people of their livelihood?

Finally, these elements have become a tool that is rented to achieve the objectives of forces that are lying in wait for Egypt and seek to destroy its economy. We say that these elements will never succeed because all the sons of Egypt are strongly and firmly confronting all the forces of evil and tyranny in defense of their lives, their sons' lives, and their future.

Paper Interviews al-Jihad's al-Zawahiri

NC2611171293 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22 Nov p 3

[Text] Ayman al-Zawahiri, a founder of the violent fundamentalist movement in Egypt, took part in the formation of the first nucleus of the al-Jihad Group in 1966. He was accused in the case of the assassination of al-Sadat. Upon his release in 1984, al-Zawahiri left for Afghanistan to operate with the Mujahidin groups against the former communist regime.

Al-Zawahiri's name has recently been linked to the formation of the organization called the "Vanguards of the Conquest." Military courts passed death sentences against a large number of the organization's defendants a few weeks ago.

Al-Zawahiri is known as the leader of the al-Jihad Group abroad. He visits various capitals and is now residing in Geneva.

AL-'ARABI conducted an interview with al-Zawahiri to find ways to end the cycle of this destructive violence. His answers were received by "fax." The interview goes as follows:

[AL-'ARABI] During the trial of the defendants in the case of Vanguards of the Conquest, the defendants were heard cheering your name. What do you think of that?

[Al-Zawahiri] This is an honor that I do not deserve.

[AL-'ARABI] Why did the Vanguards of the Conquest group bear a specific name even though its members affirm they are part of the al-Jihad Group?

[Al-Zawahiri] It is because they are the vanguard of the conquest, but they are still factions and brigades of the al-Jihad. There are other groups to which we have no connection.

[AL-'ARABI] Those represent the many names and various groups of the religious trend. How do you explain this phenomenon when you claim that the objectives and paths are united?

[Al-Zawahiri] There are many groups for reasons that would require a lengthy explanation. They emerge because of various circumstances related to their origin, the place, and the date. Those groups emerged because of various concepts of reality or because of the fact that the Muslim youth are not satisfied with the way in which "the old groups" have been confronting the "secular" governments since the 1940s. We called for forming a united front to change the regime. We called on everyone to give his best and give his allegiance to the Muslims rather than to the regime. We also called on everyone not to slander the mujahidin for the sake of appeasing the regime.

I believe that the Muslim Brothers will not approve this call. Despite their previous stands, we still extend our hand to them. We have no idea what excuses they will present to their youth in case they reject our call. We also have no idea how they will justify their continued slander against the mujahidin.

[AL-'ARABI] What is the nature of the ideological differences between your group and the other groups?

[Al-Zawahiri] There are no ideological or main differences among the principal religious groups. There are either marginal differences that should not obstruct our unity or there are practical differences because of various interpretations of reality.

[AL-'ARABI] If the differences do not prevent unification, how would you explain the various divisions affecting your groups?

[Al-Zawahiri] There is no talk about divisions among the leaders. Rather, there is talk about the unity between the influential groups. However, how can they attain unity of action under the difficult circumstances we are now experiencing?

[AL-'ARABI] We do not understand what you want exactly. Can you specify your demands? Are al-Jihad's demands different from the Islamic Group's?

[Al-Zawahiri] We summarized our demands in a statement issued in September. We said our primary objective is to establish an Islamic state, a Caliphate state. This state will propagate the faith of the one God;

liberate Muslim territories, notably Jerusalem; revive the duty of jihad to liberate Muslim lands; free the Muslim nation from economic subservience; promulgate virtue and Islamic morality; distribute wealth equally; establish social justice and foster social cooperation; end injustice to the deprived, poor classes; encourage learning and enhance the status of scholars; and honor religious courts that safeguard people's rights, defend their basic liberties in line with shari'ah rules, and prevent encroachment on those rights. These are the demands of the entire Islamic movement.

[AL-'ARABI] The Islamic Group's members say that 'Abbud al-Zumur has left al-Jihad and joined your group's shura [consultative] council. Is this true?

[Al-Zawahiri] 'Abbud is a virtuous brother. Everyone is proud to have him as a brother regardless of his group affiliation. He is a very active advocate of a union between al-Jihad and the Islamic Group. Therefore, I expect the process of defining his current affiliation will successfully usher in a union of the two groups.

[AL-'ARABI] How was the assassination of [Interior Minister] Major General Hasan al-Alfi planned? Did you actually instruct Nazih Nushi Rashid to carry out this operation?

[Al-Zawahiri] The plan called for a "martyrdom" operation and we actually instructed brother Nazih to carry it out.

[AL-'ARABI] Nevertheless, the operation followed the method used by the Islamic Group.

[Al-Zawahiri] If some people think so, then it honors us to follow the Islamic Group's methods, learn from them, and integrate with them.

[AL-'ARABI] Do you believe that the assassination of a minister or some other official will help establish an Islamic state?

[Al-Zawahiri] This is a preliminary step in the process of change.

[AL-'ARABI] Have armed operations against officials entered the suicide operations stage?

[Al-Zawahiri] We call them "martyrdom" operations. This is not a new development. The brothers who carried out the al-Sadat operation knew for certain that they were going to be killed.

[AL-'ARABI] Who issues the religious rulings to kill? On what basis is this done?

[Al-Zawahiri] We have a committee of career Muslim ulema. [Nahnu ladayni lajnah min 'ulama' al-muslimin al-'amilin] Perhaps people will learn surprising things if it is destined for this history to be written.

[AL-'ARABI] Don't you believe that the religious groups have lost much of their popularity as a result of the increasing violence?

Al-Zawahiri gave this strange reply.

[Al-Zawahiri] The people sympathize with us and rejoice in our triumph. We are all pained by the injuries that afflict the public during the operations. These injuries occur even though we have repeatedly warned our brothers among the public to stay away from operational areas!! [manatiq al-'amal]

[AL-'ARABI] After al-Jihad member Ahmad Faruq died during interrogation, it was announced that he confessed before his death that it was al-Jihad which carried out the bombings in several Cairo neighborhoods.

[Al-Zawahiri] Our group issued a statement denouncing the Shubra bombing and the death of innocent victims in the city's public squares. We stated that our war was not against the public. As to Ahmad Faruq, he died under torture.

[AL-'ARABI] It is said that you have drawn up a plan to assassinate [UN Secretary General] Dr. Butrus-Ghali.

[Al-Zawahiri] Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Palestine, and Egypt are eagerly awaiting deliverance from Butrus-Ghali.

[AL-'ARABI] It has become clear to everyone that those who traveled to Afghanistan are now back to carry out acts of violence in Egypt. Some of them have been arrested and charged in specific cases. What do you think about this?

[Al-Zawahiri] Who carried out the Technical Military College operation [abortive attempt to take over the college by cadets sympathetic to fundamentalists in 1977] and al-Sadat's assassination, and who tried to assassinate [former interior ministers] Hasan Abu-Basha and al-Nabawi Isma'il? Were they trained in Afghanistan? Those who had traveled to Afghanistan sought to fulfill jihad and then come back to change the corruption and regimes in their countries.

[AL-'ARABI] It is clear that you are in disagreement with the "Muslim Brotherhood." Are there any attempts to search for common ground?

[Al-Zawahiri] We are not satisfied with the Brotherhood's activity for reasons we have explained in detail in our book entitled "Bitter Harvest" [al-hasad al-murr]. Despite this, we urge them to join us under the terms we have previously mentioned.

[AL-'ARABI] There is much talk about your source of financing. Where do you get the money from and what countries are supporting you?

[Al-Zawahiri] The financing comes from inside, not outside, Egypt.

[AL-'ARABI] What do you think of the armed robberies against jewelers and the use of the proceeds to finance activities?

[Al-Zawahiri] We did not carry out these operations.

[AL-'ARABI] What is the nature of your relations with Iran?

[Al-Zawahiri] We have no relations with them.

[AL-'ARABI] After the Egyptian Government has managed to liquidate the Vanguards of Conquest's wing, what will you be doing in the coming stage?

[Al-Zawahiri] Nazih Nushi Rashid carried out the al-Alfi operation while his name was listed [as a defendant] in the Vanguards of Conquest case. Everyone will see the Vanguards of Conquest members back in the "field" once again as we saw Rashid.

[AL-'ARABI] It was mentioned in the first statement by your group on the al-Alfi operation that two group members, Nazih Rashid and Hasan al-Fahl, were killed. Then it was proved that the second person killed with Rashid was named Diya'-al-Din Hafiz. What is this contradiction? Do you rely on what the radios broadcast and what the news agencies carry or do you know in advance who carries out the operations?

[Al-Zawahiri] That was an attempt to cover the existence of brother Tariq al-Fahl, whose name has been listed as a fugitive in the second case of the Vanguards of Conquest. So we tried to cover his existence, but we do not lack information.

[AL-'ARABI] Has the dialogue between the detainees in prison and the religious ulema that took place a few years ago led to any tangible results, and could it be resumed again?

[Al-Zawahiri] It has not led and will not lead to positive results!! This is because the dialogue is rejected; it was a mere show in which the authority debated itself.

[AL-'ARABI] Don't you think that your reliance on those who traveled to Afghanistan proves that the members inside the country have no power to be of any influence?

[Al-Zawahiri] I am sorry that you believe this. Most of the youngsters who participated in the recent operations never went to Afghanistan.

[AL-'ARABI] In your case, how and when did you leave Egypt?

[Al-Zawahiri] I left Egypt with the help of many of the advocates of the "Islamic movement." My departure was a shock to the government because it looked perfectly legal. One day we may be able to tell this story. I left in 1985 and went to many countries before reaching Pakistan, where I worked as a surgeon to treat the Afghan wounded and immigrants. Now while I am abroad I serve my colleagues at home and abroad and help them in their battle.

[AL-'ARABI] Do you intend to settle permanently in Switzerland?

[Al-Zawahiri] I have no permanent place; I move around to various places.

Musa Meets Head of Palestinian Delegation to Talks

NC2911155493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1457 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that there are problems in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations but that the talks are continuing.

In a statement he made following his meeting today with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, Musa added that Egypt is following the situation and will decide what might be done in light of the outcome of these negotiations, especially the current round of talks.

On his part, Dr. Sha'th stated that he briefed Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, on the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which are going through a difficult and critical stage.

He said that there have been several Israeli attempts to stonewall on the commitments and the date set for implementing the agreement, 13 December, as a means of pressuring the Palestinian negotiators, while Israel itself is the one impeding the progress of the negotiations.

Dr. Sha'th added that the Palestinian delegation does not feel there has been progress in the negotiations, particularly on the difficult issues. He noted that there is at the same time a threat that Israel will not be bound by the commitment to withdraw on 13 December, stressing that the Palestinians reject this whole Israeli reasoning. He went on to say that he had asked to meet with Musa so as to brief President Mubarak on the developments on the instructions of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Dr. Sha'th stressed the Palestinians' commitment to continue with the negotiations till the last minute so that there will be no excuse for delaying the implementation of the agreement on the date set for it. He said that the Palestinian stand is clear, namely that Jericho is as important as Gaza. He noted in this respect that Israel is trying to turn Jericho into a valueless symbol by defining its area at only around 27 square kms.

Dr. Sha'th said that the Palestinians are demanding that the Palestinian borders be open for joint Palestinian-Egyptian-Arab investment zones and also want an international Egyptian-Palestinian airport on these borders but the Israelis want the borders to be military closed Israeli ones and this cannot be accepted. He added: We demand that a field study be made about the settlements to list them so that there will be no expansion [tajawuz] of the settlement area and so that the settlements will not swallow up the whole Arab territories.

He went on to say that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations were resumed today in Cairo and al-'Arish and will continue all week. He stressed that the Palestinians will cooperate up to the last minute, especially as our stand is

firm and clear. He added: All the parties have a special responsibility, but the Egyptian role is the only one that backs the Palestinian position. Therefore, we asked it officially to continue to play its role of backing the Palestinian right and of ensuring the success of the peace process.

Sha'th announced that there was progress in the negotiations when the Palestinian side presented an integrated plan to release the prisoners and detainees, regarding this as a single ray of hope for the release of these prisoners. He added that negotiations will he held over this plan so as to reach the final formula.

Paper Notes Disappointment on Syrian-Israeli Talks

NC3011080893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0601 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper says that developments after the Gaza-Jericho accord have disappointed a large number of people who expected a quicker pace in settling the Syrian-Israeli conflict and the issue of the occupied land in south Lebanon. The paper notes that the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accord is progressing slowly.

In its editorial today, the paper says that instead of expediting their withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, some Israelis have started to build new settlements on territories that were supposed to be placed under Palestinian administration.

The paper adds that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's success with the Gaza-Jericho accord prompted a hope that the peace process would gain momentum and would help settle the remaining issues of conflict, particularly those concerning the Golan Heights and the so-called Israeli security strip in south Lebanon.

The paper warns that slow progress in the negotiations with the Syrian and Lebanese sides may have unpleasant consequences. This, the paper says, might give the enemies of peace on the Israeli and Palestinian sides an opportunity to undermine the entire process so that the situation reverts to where it was previously, if not worse.

Chief of Staff Meets Saudi Military Delegation

NC3011115093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, the Armed Forces chief of staff, today received a Saudi military delegation led by Major General Yusuf Bin-Muhammad al-Madani, head of the Saudi Armed Forces Operations Agency, which is currently visiting Cairo.

The visit's aim is to discuss aspects of military cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia and to implement agreements reached during a recent visit to Egypt by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and inspector general.

The head of the Armed Forces Operations Agency attended the meeting at the Defense Ministry headquarters.

Fifth Group Returns From Syrian Detention

NC2611202693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Fourteen Egyptians returned to Cairo today aboard an Egyptian aircraft from Syria. This is the fifth group of Egyptians who have returned from Syria within two weeks. The Syrian authorities detained them on 23 October after finding them on one of the mountains near the Syrian-Lebanese border.

Pakistani Seeking Political Asylum Deported

NC2611185993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1708 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Cairo Airport authorities today deported to Pakistan 'Ijaz Ahmad Khan after Egyptian authorities rejected his demand for political asylum.

The Pakistani national had torn up his passport in Vienna, where he had traveled from Paris. He asked the Austrian authorities to grant him political asylum but they rejected the demand and returned him to Paris. He had also asked for political asylum in the French capital, claiming that there are major differences between himself and his family in Pakistan's province of Kashmir, but the French authorities rejected his demand and returned him to Cairo, from where he had originally flown to Paris.

Mubarak Confers With Visiting Thai Senate Speaker

NC2711110293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1011 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Thai Senate President Michai Ruchupan who is currently visiting Cairo. Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi attended the meeting.

Following the session, Ruchupan said that he and President Mubarak discussed the situation in the Middle East and Asia.

For his part, Dr. Hilmi said that the meeting involved a discussion of bilateral relations. Dr. Hilmi said that President Mubarak called for closer economic, technical, and parliamentarian ties with Thailand.

The Egyptian Consultative Council speaker said that Mubarak and the Thai official discussed international developments as well as Egypt's leading role in world diplomacy. The Thai official, Dr. Hilmi added, voiced

praise of President Mubarak's efforts in the search for a lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

Chinese Parliamentarians Conclude Visit

NC2911095793 Cairo MENA in English 0745 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (MENA)—A Chinese parliamentary delegation left here this morning at the end of a week-long visit to Egypt. While here the delegation held talks with a number of senior officials on means of fostering bilateral relations in parliamentary fields.

They were seen off at the airport, by People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Ahmad Hammadi and chairman of the Assembly's foreign relations committee Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah.

Musa Leaves To Attend CSCE Meeting in Rome

NC2911155593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this afternoon for Rome to take part in a session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE], which will open there tomorrow, at the foreign ministerial level. His Excellency will deliver a speech at the conference in which he will state Egypt's position on Bosnia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the situation in the Middle East. Minister Musa will note the need for peace in the Middle East and point out to the link between events in the Middle East and Europe's peace and security.

Czech Minister Dlouhy, Delegation Arrive for Talks

NC2711074293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Vladimir Dlouhy, Czech industry and trade minister, arrived in Cairo tonight at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days.

The Czech minister is scheduled to hold talks with officials in the Ministries of Industry, Foreign Trade, and Electricity on ways to promote bilateral cooperation in the various fields.

The Czech minister was welcomed at the airport by Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah.

Minister Meets Musa, Comments

NC2711155293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Vladimir Dlouhy, Czech industry and trade minister, who is currently paying a visit to Egypt.

The Czech minister stated that his country welcomes the visit President Mubarak will pay to the Czech Republic in the first half of next year. He noted that he had delivered an invitation to Musa from his Czech counterpart to visit the Czech Republic, adding that the visit is expected to take place in the first quarter of next year.

The Czech trade minister added that he discussed the Middle East developments and the prospects of his country's participation in projects in Gaza and Jericho within the framework of the multilateral committee. He praised the economic, political, and cultural relations linking his country to Egypt, noting that his country contributes to a number of development, infrastructure, and electricity generation projects in Egypt.

Economic Cooperation Discussed

AU2911164393 Prague CTK in English 1904 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo Nov 27 (CTK)—Czech Industry and Trade Minister Vladimir Dlouhy and Egyptian Minister of Energy Muhammad Mahir Abazah today signed a memorandum which provides for the adjustment of the two countries' economic cooperation to the new economic and political situation in their countries.

In talks today, Dlouhy said the Czech Republic was ready for further cooperation, particularly regarding deliveries of power station units to Egypt. In past years, Czech and Slovak experts constructed the first and second units in the Talkha power station. Two more units are expected to be built in the future. A tender will take place to choose the supplier, but its date has not yet been set. The home country insists on one condition, namely that 40 to 50 percent of deliveries will be ensured by Egyptian suppliers.

Dlouhy, on a visit here since yesterday, said the Czech Republic is ready to ship spare parts and reconstruct already completed work as well as construct the new units.

Jiri Jirak from the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, a member of the Czech delegation, told journalists that Egypt is attractive for foreigners, but, as he said, there is much competition there.

The Czech Republic's advantage is that its products are well known in the country. Its exports to Egypt amounted to 120 million USD in the first ten months of the year.

The Czech Republic's supplies are designed almost solely for the government's energy and irrigation projects. Their implementation is aided by the International Monetary Fund.

Later in the day, Dlouhy met for talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Mahmud Musa.

In an interview with CTK, Musa said that relations with the Czech Republic, which is a stable country both

economically and politically, are important for Egypt. He said Egypt was one of the first countries to favour the Czech Republic's nomination for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council. He stressed that the development of the two countries' relations justifiably arouses optimism.

Trade Agreement Signed

AU2911163593 Prague CTK in English 1536 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo Nov 28 (CTK)—Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy, on a four-day visit to Egypt, and Egyptian Minister of the Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad Bayyumi today signed a new trade agreement between the two countries.

The agreement is a standard document adapting the trade relations between the Czech Republic and Egypt to the new economic and political conditions in the Czech Republic and Egypt.

We are carrying on in the tradition of previous cooperation. We would like to strengthen trade relations, and hope that relations with the Czech Republic will open the door to European markets for us, Bayyumi said.

This year, Czech imports from Egypt amounted to six million dollars, but exports to Egypt were twenty times as high, at 120 million dollars.

The last trade agreement between the former Czechoslovakia and Egypt was signed in 1959, and thus the new agreement changes conditions inherited from the times of the centrally-planned economy.

Dlouhy said the new document established conditions suitable for a market economy. It ruled that payments could not be made in the form of goods and must be made in freely convertible currencies, and accepted the standard provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Dlouhy said.

In an interview with CTK earlier today after meeting Dlouhy, Egyptian Minister for International Cooperation Yusuf Butrus-Ghali said that Egypt would be glad to make use of Czech experience with economic reform, and needed to exchange information.

He said a coordinating agreement between the Czech Republic and Egypt on the exchange of experience and cooperation would be a further step towards the development of relations between the two countries.

Dlouhy told Butrus-Ghali about the course of economic reform in the Czech Republic. He mentioned price liberalisation, the support of small and medium-sized businesses and balancing the budget, and explained the rudiments of Czech voucher privatisation.

Since the collapse of the Council For Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) of the former Warsaw Pact countries, the Czech Republic had lost a lot of market places for its goods, Dlouhy said, adding that this was one of the main reasons for his visits to Egypt and other countries with which the Czech Republic used to have close economic ties.

In an interview for CTK, Dlouhy said it was necessary to show economists and traders from Vietnam, China, Iran and other countries that the change in the political orientation of the Czech Government did not mean it was no longer interested in trade cooperation with them.

After meeting the general secretary of the League of Arab States, Ahmad Magid, Dlouhy told CTK and Czech Television that Egypt was the gateway to the whole of the Arab world.

Dlouhy said he and Magid discussed other trading possibilities for the Czech Republic, not only with Arab states but also with occupied countries, especially in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Dlouhy said cooperation in this area would largely concern the development of the infrastructure and the construction of roads.

Later on today, Dlouhy is to meet the minister for the oil industry and mineral resources, Hamdi al-Banbi, and the minister of irrigation and public works, Muhammad Radi.

Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister Begins Visit

NC2611152293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Gerbasi arrived in Cairo from Israel this morning for a four-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, he said the aim of his visit is to promote Egyptian-Venezuelan political and economic relations and assert his country's support for Egypt's role in the Middle East peace process. [Passage omitted]

Communique Issued

NC3011115993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Venezuela has expressed its support for Egypt's positive steps and great role in the Middle East peace process.

A Foreign Ministry communique at the end of the Venezuelan deputy foreign minister's visit to Cairo said the two countries are linked by strong ties of friendship, noting bilateral agreements on economy, trade, petroleum, and culture.

The two sides also agreed to convene the Egyptian-Venezuelan Joint Committee in Caracas by next April.

The communique called for consolidating bilateral cultural and economic and technical cooperation accords. The two sides agreed to devise a program for an exchange of visits.

The Venezuelan deputy foreign minister began his visit to Cairo on 25 November.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Praises 'Resistance' to 'Imperialists'

LD2711090693 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Excerpts] In an unprecedented mass meeting and an historic scene reflecting the high morale of the Libyan Arab people, all the masses of Suq al-Jumu'ah quarter in Tripoli went out to receive the brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi] in a demonstration of steadfastness and defiance in preparation for the confrontation.

These masses, shouting defiantly and as loud as ever, announced their historic decision to face up to the new colonialist crusader aggressions. The angry masses stressed their absolute faith in their ability to drive away the forces of colonialism and their agents, and to add more heroic pages to the ones already adorning the history of the Libyan Arab people through the epics of its jihad and struggle against the battalions of invading colonialists.

The brother leader of the revolution made the following speech amongst this deeply significant setting:

[Begin Al-Qadhdhafi recording] Brothers, it is being said that this angry mass explosion is unparalleled, and yesterday we said that the mass gathering was unprecedented, and we are forced to say today once again that this mass gathering, this mass explosion in Suq al-Jumu'ah in Tripoli, is also unprecedented. We would be right to say everyday that this mass gathering is unprecedented.

All this is proof of the morale and the courage characterizing the heroic Libyan people who staged a revolution against all the odds. This is not the first time the West is surprised by the Libyan people, who upset its calculations and destroyed its plans and defeated its determination, thus leading to the victory of the Libyan people and their determination. [passage omitted]

Brothers, iron can go rusty, it cannot make the past or the future of the people. Material equipment cannot make any glory, or future, or civilization. Our enemy in the West is only proud of its missiles, frigates, and war equipment. It is foolishly proud of and arrogant about all this.

People with a great past, those who waged battles and battles during their past, rely on this past, use it to face up to the dangers of the present, and make their way with this past toward the future.

The Libyan people are greater than the American people. Libya has thousands of years behind it, but America was born yesterday and was made up of foreigners and criminals only 200 years ago. The Libyan people belong to a great nation which is more than 5,000 years' old. [passage omitted]

The mosaics of the population in America have no future and will not survive. The American mosaics are bound to shatter, brothers. We are a nation which will survive and America is a nation which will inevitably fall because it is made up of contradictions: Poor and rich, blacks and whites, and red, who are the real landowners and who are being exterminated.

Brothers, the American nation, which is made up of immigrants, foreigners, and contradictory mosaics is on its way to dispersion, to division, to secession; what is more, to civil war between whites and blacks, the Yankees and the Arabs, the Indians and red Indians [as heard], and between all the nationalities making up the American mosaics.

The great Arab nation with its great glory cannot be obliterated. It cannot be defeated, brothers. They are now proud of what they have in the form of military might, they are proud of the arms they have, the iron and minerals they have, but iron cannot be the support and the provision on which nations rely. Nations count on their cultures, their morale, their morals, their creeds and their hope and aspirations for life. Nations lean on their history and get help from it to trace out the track for the future, and this applies to the Arab nation now, with the Libyan people at the forefront.

Brothers, it is an honor, the ultimate honor for the Libyan people to be the people that holds high the banner of resistance, holds high the banner of rejection, the people who say no, and never surrender, the people who deride aggression and who are proud of their equipment. [passage omitted]

These are glorious days in wh[illegible] you are living, brothers; days which you will leave for your sons and grandsons as bright and glorious pages. In these hours when the cowards are bowing their heads before the forces of tyranny, you are raising your voice. In this hour we are telling our Arab nation that steadfastness, confrontation, defiance, and preparation for resistance is the solution, is the path, and is the one which will convince the enemy. The enemy fears and has no shame. The enemy fears and knows no shame. Either a defeat is inflicted on the enemy or he will continue with his arrogance. [passage omitted]

If the imperialists manage to get a hold on you they will have no mercy on you. Hence there is nothing but confrontation, defiance, and preparation to resist, irrespective of the cost; we have to sacrifice ourselves and what we have for the sake of this land. We will defend our dignity, land, and independence with all the strength we have. We will resist for years and years, and not for hours or days. [passage omitted] They should know that the Libyan people are getting ready and are instigating its Arab nation and Africa and all the peoples who want to live free and dignified lives, that the Libyan people are preparing for a long historic and bitter—as far as the imperialists are concerned—confrontation; a losing one in the end as far as they are concerned, and a victorious

one in the end as far as the Libyan people are concerned. No one or two or three or four battles affect the Libyan people. Our resistance is not for one day only; nor it is for one month; nor for one year; nor for one decade. Our resistance goes on for hundreds and thousands of years. [passage omitted]

Let the imperialists know, brothers, that our resistance is an historic resistance. We are preparing for an historic resistance, inciting generation after generation, and handing over generation to generation the banner of resistance and the banner of steadfastness and struggle. They think the battle with Libya is a battle with a life span as long as one American administration, a Republican or a Democratic administration. Or the life of two Republican or two Democratic candidates. Or as long as the term of office of the Conservative or the Labour parties in Britain, or the Socialist or the Rightist or the Gaullist parties in France. However, brothers, we tell them these are the wrong calculations upon which they depend in the past and led them to defeats. Our resistance is longer than the life of an American administration, longer than the life span of all the coming American administrations. Our resistance is longer than the life of all parties of the West. Our resistance is an historic resistance without either surrender or subservience. The price of our resistance is blood and caravans of martyrs which we have offered in reality, not words, and we are still prepared to offer repeatedly. [passage omitted]

The West still believes, as it did in the past, that threatening us with boycotting Libyan oil, freezing Libyan assets and imposing an embargo on Libya will force the Libyan people to bow down and accept being a slave of the West, and its land again being a colony.

Look at these silly calculations, silly calculations that believe that people and nations stoop and accept slavery for bread, or for luxuries, or for the good life. When things become serious, when they are faced with danger and when there is bargaining over their dignity, freedom, independence, and the territory of their fathers and forefathers, then people are no longer the usual docile peoples, the people that look for luxuries, the people that want only to eat, drink, and dress. People turn into an angry revolution, to a volcano that erupts and destroys everything. [passage omitted]

From here, from Suq al-Jum'ah in immortal Tripoli, we say to them: Your calculations are wrong. Here is the revolutionary youth, the revolutionary people, here are the defiant people, people bracing themselves for confrontation. Their calculations are wrong, brothers: Let them hear the voice of the young. Let them hear the voice of the Libyan people here in Suq al-Jum'ah, in this historic place. [passage omitted] Let them hear from Suq al-Jum'ah today, from eternal Tripoli, let them hear the voice of defiance, the voice of preparedness for confrontation, the voice of preparedness for resistance. Let them hear the voice inciting the Arab nation, the youth of the Arab nation.

Let the Arab nation, from the ocean to the Gulf, hear the voice of incitement, the voice of the call for jihad, the call for resistance and martyrdom. Let Europe, let America hear the voice of the defiant masses, the voice of the angry masses, the voice of the masses that do not care a straw about oil, that cannot be defeated because of oil or corrupted by the free market or the dollar. Let them hear the voice of honorable free men, the great grandchildren of the mujahedin, the sons of the mujahidin that taught lessons to the Italians, the Romans, the Vandals, the Spaniards, the Normans, the Genoese, and the Sicilians. They taught them lessons in this place, this historic place.

Let them know that we are standing here today in this place among these angry millions in Suq al-Jumu'ah, the important eastern area of immortal Tripoli. Let them know that this place where we are standing has thousands of bodies beneath it, those of the sons of Suq al-Jumu'ah, of the city of Tripoli, of our people, who sacrificed themselves over the years in immortal confrontations and battles against America, against Rome and against the West.

Let them know that this land on which we are standing, O brothers, at this great historic hour, has been watered by the blood of our fathers and grandfathers and the generations before them. This land is completely sanctified. This is a land which has been watered with the blood of our martyrs, those who resisted and defended it so that it would not be a fourth shore for Rome. Rome has been proved wrong time and time again, and so has colonialism.

The right of veto is here, the right of veto is here; here is the right of veto with the Libyan people in Suq al-Jumu'ah, in Mogadishu, in Iraq, in Palestine, in southern Lebanon, Hamas, Hizbollah, the Iraqi resistance, the Palestinian resistance, the Lebanese resistance, the resistance in Mogadishu, the resistance of the steadfast Libyan people. These are the ones who have the right of veto. Here is the right of veto. We say no, a thousand times no. We are ready to face the cowards. [Cheering, chanting] [end recording]

Diplomats, Economists View Implications of Sanctions

NC3011073593 Paris AFP in English 2315 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Report by Elie Austa]

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 30 (AFP)—New U.N. sanctions against Libya which take effect Wednesday [1 December] will hike up consumer prices but oil sales, the country's main source of revenue, will not be affected immediately, diplomats and economists say.

"Libyans have had plenty of time to send back their assets or transfer them to other countries under pseudonyms," one diplomat said.

A European ambassador contacted from Cyprus said it would not be easy to "paralyze" European factories partly owned by Libyans.

The U.N. Security Council on November 11 ordered a freeze on Libyan assets abroad and an embargo on deliveries of oil-related equipment, to take effect on December 1.

The new sanctions come on top of a ban on air traffic and arms sales imposed to force Libya to hand over two suspects wanted by the United States and Britain over the bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988. The bombing killed 270 people.

Prices had increased dramatically in Libya since the United Nations slapped an air and arms embargo on the country in April 1992, the European ambassador in Tripoli said.

"Certain subsidized goods are hard to find and the dinar is only worth 50 cents on the open market against three dollars at the official rate," he explained.

An Arab economist meanwhile said Libya lacked the financial and agricultural resources of a country such as Iraq, and the new sanctions would eventually affect the Libyans' standard of living and "exacerbate the chaos."

In the run-up to the December deadline Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi has delivered vitriolic speeches to crowds of Libyans, reffirming his refusal to hand over the two suspects.

On Friday he again vowed never to bow to international pressure to hand them over for trial.

Qadhdhafi said the Lockerbie affair was "only a pretext to make the Libyan people bend," and Tripoli was prepared to confront the West for decades and even set fire to its oil wells.

The impact of the new sanctions may be limited in the short term because the freeze on Libyan assets abroad, estimated at between four and five billion dollars, will be hard to implement, with little to distinguish individual from state deposits, diplomats say.

The Nicosia-based newsletter MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES) said countries where the Libyan company Oilinvest had handed over most of its capital to European partners would find it hard to freeze the assets, held by subsidiaries in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Spain and Hungary.

However, Tripoli will be deprived of dividends on its investments.

MEES said that besides assets transferred to the Gulf and Asia, Libya has stockpiled oil equipment listed in the new embargo.

In the medium and short term, "this equipment must be bought through intermediaries, and as with all embargoes, it will be accessible but will cost more," an oil expert said.

Offshore companies set up by Libyans in third countries have been importing banned goods into Libya since 1986, when U.S. high technology was first embargoed and Libyan assets in the United States were frozen.

Libyans in general "want to live in peace and finish with this conflict that complicates their lives," the European ambassador said.

"They fear what may happen, since the specter of the U.S. raid on their country in 1986 continues to haunt them," he added.

Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan ordered air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986 which killed 37 and injured 93, in retaliation for the bombing of a discotheque in West Berlin frequented by U.S. soldiers.

Morocco

Parliament's Vote on Government Program Detailed

LD2911150493 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 29 (MAP)—The Moroccan House of Representatives (parliament) Saturday [27 November] approved, by 202 votes for and 118 against and no abstention, the governmental program presented last Tuesday by Premier Mohammed Karim Lamrani.

The new Moroccan cabinet appointed November 11 by King Hassan II obtained thus the parliament confidence.

The Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action (OADP), the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS) and mps [members of parliament] representing two trade unions namely the Democratic Labor Confederation and the General Union of Moroccan Workers voted against the governmental declaration.

The declaration was approved by the mps of the National Rally of Independents (RNI), and of the parties forming the National Entente namely the Constitutional Union (UC), the Popular Movement (MP), the National Democrat Party (PND) and the National Popular Movement (MNP).

The vote took place after a three day debate during which the various parliamentary groups took the floor to explain their stand and vote. A number of cabinet members also took the floor to respond to the remarks made by the parliamentary groups.

The mp who took the floor on behalf of the National Entente, Abdeslam Barakat, said the supreme interest of the nation must be placed above any other narrow

partisan consideration and that the National Entente parties which do not form the majority of the new cabinet decided to grant their confidence to the government out of concern to avoid a political crisis in the country.

Fathalah Oualaalou said on behalf of the USFP that the cabinet is a mere continuation of previous governments and does not fulfill the Moroccan people's aspirations to change and renewal.

Genuine and authentic democracy implies changeover of power between parties and unfortunately such is not the case with the current cabinet, Oualaalou said before expressing doubts as to the cabinet's capacity to settle the existing problems.

He said that the USFP which decided to vote against the governmental program hopes however that the dialog advocated by King Hassan II would gather the conditions for changeover of power and materialize the people's aspirations.

In the same vein, Mohamed El-Khalifa pointed out on behalf of the Istiqlal Party that the new cabinet lacks political will, is the mere continuation of previous experiences and does not reflect the authentic democracy the Moroccan people aspires to. That is why, he said, the Istiqlal Party will vote against the governmental program.

The mp of the RNI, Aziz Houcine, who took the floor afterwards said his party decided to vote for the governmental program to spare the country a political vacuum.

For Ismail Alaoui who took the floor on behalf of the PPS, the governmental program is inaccurate about a number of subjects and the responses made by some cabinet members are elusive.

The declaration does not meet the people's aspirations to renewal and is not up to the challenges thrown at the country. The PPS cannot therefore grant its confidence to the new cabinet, he said.

In the address he made before the vote operation, Premier Karim Lamrani said the supreme interest of the country exacts from the executive and legislative powers to cooperate to start a new page in the economic and social development process in the country. And this, he said, is possible by means of fruitful dialog, permanent consultation and mobilization of all national energies. The cabinet is receptive to any constructive advice or criticism and is determined to take into account as far as possible the constructive remarks and suggestions made by the mps, Lamrani said.

To the remark made by some mps about the absence of any specific figures in the governmental program, Lamrani recalled that Article 59 of the Constitution stipulates that the cabinet explains the broad lines of the action it plans to undertake in various sectors. The program is a sort of blue print of the governmental action, he said adding that the 1994 appropriation bill will explain in a detailed and accurate way this action in all sectors.

The Minister of Finance Mohamed Sagou who also spoke during Saturday's plenary session said Morocco's economic and financial policy is based on a number of options including economic liberalism and the private initiative that proved judicious.

He said that economic growth stood at 4 pc during the 1982-91 period and that this rate slackened during the past two years in view of drought and international economic recession. He added that the major financial balances were restored, the budget deficit was reduced and the hard currency reserves recorded a considerable increase. The Treasury and current account deficits were also brought down, he said. As to the external debt assessed at 20 billion dollars, Sagou said the payment of the debt service requires a sustained economic growth.

The finance minister also explained the measures taken or projected to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises and to set up free zones and said that the funds earmarked for the national program of struggle against drought had been disbursed to promote employment in the rural world, promote agricultural lands, preserve cattle and reschedule the debts incurred by farmers.

Sudan

TNA Committees Discuss Resolutions of U.S. Congress

EA2911181693 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The Peace Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] held a meeting this morning. A reliable source at the assembly said that the meeting was held at the initiative of the two committees to enlighten the members from the southern states and the Jibal al-Nubah, as well as those interested in issues of war and peace, about the resolutions of the U.S. Congress with the objective of studying and evaluating them, and to define general outlines for submission to the TNA. The source mentioned an earlier session when the members heard a general briefing presented by Dr. Shakir al-Sarraj, chairman of the TNA Foreign Relations Committee. He then reviewed the full text of the resolutions of the U.S. Congress. The source said that today's meeting heard a full briefing presented by Dr. Alio al-Hajj, the official spokesman of the government at the peace negotiations, about the government's efforts to achieve peace. He pointed out that these efforts had resulted in improving the security situation in the south and achieving diplomatic and political relaxation. He said that Sudan's determination about the freedom of its decision-making and the liberation of its will were not in harmony with U.S. interests.

Dr. Ali Al-Hajj pointed out that Sudan's sound stand can be depended on to refute these allegations. He stressed the observance of human rights in Sudan and the guarantees for religious freedom. His excellency said that all these political provocations would end in failure.

The meeting also heard a briefing from Mr. Abdullah Deng Nhial, the minister of peace and rehabilitation, in which he stated that the government rejected the accusations addressed by the United States to Sudan.

He confirmed that Sudan rejected interference in its internal affairs and the abandonment of its cultural scheme and peace efforts.

This was followed by discussion on the U.S. resolutions and their security implications. The members confirmed the national principles of the unity of Sudan and federal rule as well as the government's program to establish peace and the importance of activating diplomatic missions abroad to strengthen Sudan's stands in international and regional forums. The members asked for the continuation of such meetings in the future.

The two committees decided to prepare a detailed report for submission to the TNA.

TNA Committee Approves Foreign Exchange Regulations

EA2911133293 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The economic affairs committee at the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] approved the foreign exchange regulations for 1993 which prohibited the acquisition of foreign currencies without official documents. The TNA economic affairs committee recommended in its meeting in the presence of minister of finance and governor of the Bank of Sudan that foreign currency payable to the government should be exempted from the customs declaration at all ports of entry. Such payments include, for instance, charges against Sudanese nationals working abroad or currencies brought to be deposited in the banks. Exemption from declarations should also include a specified minimum amount of foreign currency, as well as other forms of foreign currency, such as travelers checks.

Following the conclusion of the TNA's economic affairs committee meeting, its chairman, Mr. Badr al-din Sulayman, stated that the objective behind those recommendations is to make sure that the Bank of Sudan's decision to regulate foreign exchange dealings is used only against foreign currency trading and not against personal acquisition. The committee warned against transfers of foreign currencies outside the country unless the national exchange market gets on its feet. [sentence as heard]

Military Commander Views Security Situation

EA2911182093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 29 Nov (SUNA)—Commander of Bahr al-Gahzal military area Brigadier al-Ubayd al-Zubayr al-Tahir has confirmed the stability of security situations all over the state. He explained to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily newspaper of today that the Armed Forces were completely controlling the security situation in Bahr al-Ghazal.

He announced that large numbers of the outlaws surrendered to the Armed Forces after being convinced of the unseriousness of the outlaws' movement. Al-Ubayd also explained that the Armed Forces received and cared for the returnees.

He pointed out that the outlaws' factions suffer from a grave split and a shortage in food supply. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario Welcomes UN Call To Postpone Referendum

LD2811103093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has given a positive reaction to the contents of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's report calling for the postponement of the self-determination referendum in Western Sahara, initially scheduled for the end of this year.

Bechir Mustapha Sayed, Polisario' deputy leader, renewed the Polisario emphasis on the need to resume the dialogue with the Moroccan side. [passage omitted]

Polisario Official Comments on Referendum, Talks

LD2911171993 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Our guest in this second part of our program is the second most senior official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario], Bechir Mustafa Sayed, who is visiting Paris. First he was reacting to the postponement of the referendum on self-determination which was to have been organized by the end of this year. Bechir Mustafa Sayed was interviewed by Christophe Boisbouvier:

[Begin recording] [Sayed] In my opinion this fresh postponement is reasonable, a good thing, because the main part of this operation to identify [who is entitled to vote] still remains to be done, and the most important problems have not yet been ironed out. There is a good reason for this: Morocco continues to demand that a result in its favor should be recognized in advance, before there has

even been a referendum, by replacing the Saharan electoral body by another, foreign, one.

[Boisbouvier] This is the whole issue of the electorate. According to some sources, UN Secretary General Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali is reported to favor a very broad electorate. What do you think of this?

[Sayed] I cannot confirm this. This first draft compromise is indeed closely related to the main Moroccan stands but, concerning Butrus-Ghali, what I can say after meeting him is that there is a noticeable improvement in his understanding of the issue, and I do not believe that he is toeing the Moroccan line. This means that this is only a first compromise and that nothing is definite, nothing has been decided yet.

[Boisbouvier] If there is no referendum next year, what will you do?

[Sayed] I hope that next year will be the year of the referendum, or of a definitive political agreement on Moroccan-Saharan relations, an agreement that goes beyond the referendum.

[Boisbouvier] An agreement which could lead to something other than the independence of the Western Sahara?

[Sayed] An agreement that will lead to independence in interdependence.

[Boisbouvier] With the same flag, the same currency as Morocco?

[Sayed] No, no. Two flags, different ones. They are different. As for the currency, I will not comment on this now, but two flags, two governments, two parliaments, different and, naturally, interdependence in everything else, particularly for economic issues, security issues, many other issues.

[Boisbouvier] The same army?

[Sayed] Why not speak of a Maghreban army?

[Boisbouvier] Did you mention this possibility during the Laayoune meeting?

[Sayed] No, no, no, because the Moroccans did not come to Laayoune to talk about essential issues. Moreover, when I tried to do so, they dissuaded me by saying that they had not come to discuss essential issues, they had come simply to make a statement on Moroccan television.

[Boisbouvier] The second meeting in New York has just failed. Have you hopes for a third meeting in the near future?

[Sayed] I am convinced we will have one, despite all the declarations made by the minister of interior and information in the name of the Foreign Ministry. I am convinced that we will have more meetings.

[Boisbouvier] Should this referendum or this agreement fail to materialize in 1994, are you considering another solution?

[Sayed] Either peace or war, either peace or war. We would like to have peace because we waged war for 18 years and the conclusion is that the Moroccans cannot exterminate the Saharans, they cannot end the Saharan resistance and the Saharans cannot defeat Morocco. However, we do not exclude this possibility of resuming fighting, war.

[Boisbouvier] Don't you fear a drift in the direction of terrorism?

[Sayed] There is increasing instability and I am convinced that peace between the Moroccans and Saharans is an essential factor to extinguish, to weaken the terrorist tendency. Otherwise, major instability, which is affecting ever more regions all the time, will get worse and gather strength, unfortunately.

[Boisbouvier] A last question: the next Paris-Dakar car rally is due to cross Western Sahara, according to the organizers. Will it be possible?

[Sayed] This would be the worst route the organizers could choose. I hope, I wish and I call on them from the bottom of my heart not to put Saharans in this situation of having their backs to the wall and, more important, not to endanger people with huge minefields, for which no one has detailed maps, and also not taking part in renewed tension in the region. [end recording]

Iran's 'Hardline' Policy on Islands Deplored

PM2911125693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Negotiation Instead of Fighting"]

[Text] Iran has once again returned to pursuing a hard-line policy in the Gulf region, incompatible with peace conditions and the settlement of regional disputes through rational negotiations and diplomatic means. This position is clear in the public measures taken with regard to the three islands disputed between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], especially Abu Musa island, which Iranian forces have occupied and over which they have begun to exercise clear sovereignty. Iran has recently pursued a policy designed to change the present reality and impose a new reality on the island.

Such a position—which relies on force, unilateral decisions, and disregard for others' rights—is incompatible with the current conditions the region is experiencing, which are designed to achieve political stability and strong regional security.

This is why the three islands issue is in the forefront of the issues to be discussed at the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council summit. It is clear that no one in the Arab region, including the Gulf states, agrees to the forcible annexation method adopted by the Iranian Government with regard to the three islands. It is a fixed position which goes back to previous eras which led to Iran's isolation from the region because of the expansionist policy it pursued toward the Arab world.

Such a policy is bound to arouse tension, harm Arab-Iranian relations, and open the door to disputes and conflicts which no reasonable person wants to prevail.

Whatever the domestic reasons prompting the Iranian Government to adopt such hard-line positions, wisdom prompts that the Iranian Government respond to the appeals made by the Gulf states for the sake of a peaceful and cooperative policy, recognition of others' rights, and arbitration of international law and international legitimacy.

All indications say that the Gulf states are adopting a unified position on the three islands problem. It is a position based on wisdom, reason, logic, and—before all that—right.

It can be said that policies in the region should move toward realism and logic, especially as numerous changes in which conditions have differed fundamentally in many positions do not allow any wager on the future or practices that are incompatible with reality.

The policy of arbitrating international law and applying calm negotiation has become the wise policy which should be pursued by all the states in the region. Because the alternative to this is harmful tensions, splits, and conflicts.

It is certain that the voice of reason will prevail over the emotional, impassioned cries of zeal and that rights will return to their owners.

Kuwait

Hijacked Iranian Plane Denied Landing Permission

LD2911203293 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Civil aviation authorities at Kuwait international airport have announced that they have received a radio message from the captain of the hijacked Iranian plane requesting permission to land at Kuwait international airport. A statement by the Interior Ministry's public relations directorate said that the airport authorities had rejected his request and that orders were issued to the Air Force to force the plane out of Kuwaiti airspace. [passage omitted]

UNIKOM Reinforcements Arrive at Airport

LD2911201593 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The first batch of UN peace-keeping forces arrived at Kuwait international airport this evening to reinforce the UN observer force UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] deployed along the border between the State of Kuwait and Iraq. The new UN force will take its position on the border by 20 December.

[Correspondent] The UN peace-keeping force is composed of 775 infantry soldiers who will take their position along the border by 20 December. A spokesman for UNIKOM has stated that the force will be armed, and will have permission to open fire under specific circumstances, and that the force will have the capability to do anything to prevent violations and confront any provocation by civilians or soldiers in the demilitarized zone on the border between the State of Kuwait and Iraq, including problems that may arise as a result of the presence of Iraqi installations or civilians on the Kuwaiti side of the border. [passage omitted]

Minister Deplores Delay in Defense Funding

PM2911111293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Nov 93 p7

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Defense Minister: Delay of Financial Allocations Affecting the Rebuilding of the Army"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-HAYAH—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah has stated that the National Assembly's delay in approving financial allocations for the armed forces rebuilding projects is now directly affecting the plans for rebuilding these forces.

He told reporters after the parliamentary session the day before yesterday that the delay in approving the financial allocations for strengthening Kuwait's defenses, which amount to 3.5 billion dinars ($11.8 billion), has directly affected the process of completing the armament of Kuwait's Army and National Guard which had proceeded according to a set plan and timetable.

He said that the delay of allocations has forced the Defense Ministry to reduce the number of volunteers for the Army because of the current lack of funds. He said that large funds are needed to cover the training, equipment, and armament of the new volunteers.

In the Assembly's first session, the deputies failed to approve the allocations which were listed in an Amiri decree issued a few months before the legislative elections. The deputies said that $11.8 billion were being spent without there being an integral plan for rebuilding the Army nor a clear concept of the Kuwaiti forces' duties in the event of foreign aggression.

Minister al-Sabah confirmed that he is to leave for Moscow on Monday on a visit during which he will sign a security agreement with Russia. It will be the fourth agreement of its kind to be signed by Kuwait with a permanent member of the Security Council.

Cabinet Decides To Establish Free Trade Zone

LD2911183593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 Nov (KUNA)—The Kuwait Council of Ministers has decided today to set up a "free trade zone" in the State of Kuwait.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, secretary of state for cabinet affairs, said today, following the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of the heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah here today, that such a step was within the framework of measures aiming at stimulating trade and bolstering the national economy. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh Governor Gives 5.5 Million Riyals To PLO

LD2911172793 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 29 Nov—On the orders of His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the emir of the Riyadh region and chairman of the Popular Committee for Helping the Mojahedin of Palestine, the sum of 5.5 million riyals was transferred today, Monday, from the revenues of the popular committee in the Kingdom to the PLO.

In a statement, 'Abd-al-Rahim Jamus, the director general of the Popular Committee for Helping the Mojahedin of Palestine in the Kingdom, said that the sum represented the third installment to be transferred from the revenues of the committee to the PLO during this Hejri year. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Further on U.S. Embassy Official Held by Tribe

Diplomat on 'Changes' in Mediators

NC2911150993 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 29 (AFP)—Mediators stepped up efforts Monday to secure the release of U.S. diplomat Haynes Mahoney, held hostage since last week by a Yemeni tribe in a remote mountainous region east of the capital.

A diplomat at the U.S. embassy in Sanaa spoke of new mediation by Yemeni tribal chiefs but added it was too soon to say Mahoney was about to be freed.

"We have no indication that he will be released soon, but we hope so. We heard about some changes in the mediators," the official told AFP, asking not to be identified.

Muhammad 'Ali Abu-Luhum, an MP from the Jahm region where the hostage is being held, said he was joining the mediators. "I'm on my way to Jahm to negotiate the release of Mr. Mahoney," he said.

Mediators have been trying since Friday to convince Shaykh Mubarak al-Zayidi, chief of the tribe allegedly holding the head of the U.S. Information Service in Yemen, to set him free.

Parliamentary speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-'Ahmar, chief of the powerful Hashid tribe, is also working to secure Mahoney's release.

The U.S. diplomat was kidnapped on Thursday by five armed tribesmen as he drove through Sanaa. The assailants made off with their hostage to Jihm, 70 kilometres (40 miles) away, which has since been surrounded by security forces.

On Sunday, a source close to the government said the chief kidnapper had dropped his demand for oil royalties in exchange for Mahoney's freedom. But the shaykh wanted a guarantee that he would not be prosecuted.

The source said the Yemeni government had rejected the offer and "was determined to make him pay for his act."

Shaykh al-Zayidi had originally demanded payment of royalties from the government and the U.S. Hunt Oil Company for installing a pumping station on his tribe's land.

Official Cited on Mahoney Release

AB2911223893 Paris AFP in English 2224 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 30 (AFP)—A U.S. diplomat kidnapped in Sanaa last week by Yemeni tribesman was released Monday, a Yemeni official said here.

Haynes Mahoney, freed at 10:30 p.m. (1930 GMT), "is in good health," the official said.

Mahoney, held for four days in the Jihm area, 70 kilometres (40 miles) from the capital, was released after the Yemeni government had accepted the kidnappers' conditions.

INA Cites Yemeni Source on Release

JN3011083393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0816 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, 30 Nov (INA)—An official Yemeni source has announced that U.S. diplomat Haynes Mahoney, who was kidnapped by a Yemeni tribal shaykh in Sanaa last Thursday, was released yesterday evening and is in good health.

The source said Mahoney, the head of the American information section, was released after being held for four days in the mountainous town of Jahm, 70 km east of Sanaa.

Interior Minister: Mahoney Still Captive

NC3011081393 Paris AFP in English 0809 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 30 (AFP)—A kidnapped American is still being held by his Yemeni abductors and has not been released contrary to earlier reports, Interior Minister Muhammad Salim al-Mutawakkil said Tuesday.

"The American diplomat is still being held" and negotiations are continuing to try win his release, which could happen later Tuesday, he said.

More on Minister's Statement

JN3011102993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—Yemeni Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil has denied statements attributed to him that abducted U.S. diplomat Haynes Mahoney, information attache at the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa, has been released.

In a press statement today, al-Mutawakkil said he did not make any statement to London radio, REUTER, the ASSOCIATED PRESS, or any other agency or radio, which cited the Yemeni interior minister as saying that the abducted U.S. diplomat had been released. Al-Mutawakkil expressed surprise how these media could fabricate such baseless statements.

In a statement this morning, reported by the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the interior minister said the abducted U.S. diplomat has not been freed and that efforts are continuing to secure his release. He said this may take place any time now, but without yielding to the abductors' demands.

Haynes Mahoney, director of the Information Center and information attache at the U.S. Embassy, supervises the American intelligence network in Sanaa. He was kidnapped while in his car in a Sanaa suburb last Thursday. The abductors took him and his car to the Jahm area in the Ma'rib Governorate, about 200 km east of Sanaa.

According to a Yemeni security source, the abductors asked for money in return for his release. Mahoney is married to an Arab woman of Lebanese nationality.

Mahoney Release Delayed

NC3011113493 Paris AFP in English 1116 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Nov 30 (AFP)—The release of a U.S. hostage in Yemen has been held up because the government refuses to allow the kidnappers to go unpunished, sources close to the negotiators said Tuesday.

But Interior Minister Muhammad Salim Yahia al-Mutawakkil, denying earlier reports that American diplomat Haynes Mahoney had already gone free, said he could be released "from one hour to the next."

The release was held up "at the last minute" because the authorities refused to let the kidnappers go, sources close to the negotiators told AFP, declining to be identified.

The sources said the tribesman [as received] holding Mahoney in the remote mountainous region of Jihm, 70 kilometres (40 miles) east of Sanaa, were demanding a plane to fly them out to a neighbouring country.

"The Yemeni government will not give in to the kidnappers' demands," insisted al-Mutawakkil.

"If the mediation efforts for Mahoney's release fail, preventive measures will have to be taken," he said, in a warning that force could be used to free the head of the U.S. Information Service in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Salih Calls for Dialogue To Settle Crisis

NC2911223493 Paris AFP in English 2035 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 29 (AFP)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Monday called for dialogue to settle a political crisis which has divided north and south Yemen for the past four months.

"Dialogue is the best way of settling differences, as it provides protection against dangers threatening the state

and society," Salih said in a speech marking the fourth anniversary of an accord which formally reunited north and south Yemen.

Salih said the Yemeni people were "determined to continue marching toward the achievement of the twin goals of unity and democracy."

He urged the government coalition and state institutions to "end laxity and administrative bureaucracy and settle Yemenis' problems, especially concerning security."

On Sunday, Yemen's major political parties postponed indefinitely a meeting to resolve a dispute between Salih and Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid over decentralization of the country.

A spokesman for the president told AFP Salih's General People's Congress (GPC) party wanted time to establish whether statements on federalism made by an official of the rival Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) led by al-Bid reflected "a personal opinion or that of the party."

The spokesman said any date for the talks, originally due to start Saturday, would depend on the YSP's explanation.

Since August 19 al-Bid has refused to leave the southern port city of Aden, demanding political and economic decentralization.

In recent months, several attacks and kidnappings have targeted prominent Yemeni officials and foreigners. Most of the assailants have not yet been arrested.

Al-Bid Rejects Call For Federation

JN3011124893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Sanaa, 30 Nov (INA)—'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], has affirmed his party's adherence to Yemeni unity and his readiness to resolve the country's current crisis in order to secure Yemen's stability and unity.

In a statement to the Yemeni newspaper AL-WAHDAWI published here today after his meeting with an opposition delegation on Sunday, al- Bid said the statements made by Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP assistant secretary general, on accepting the so-called federation instead of unity only express Muhammad's own views and not the views of the YSP.

Al-Bid, who has been staying in Aden since 19 July [month as received], emphasized that his party adheres to unity and will not depart from it.

The two coalition parties; namely, the General People's Congress, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping, also rejected Salim Salih Muhammad's statement, viewing it as an attempt to undermine Yemeni unity.

Presidential Council Meets on 'Ongoing Dialogue'

JN2911143393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting today under its chairman, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. It discussed developments in the national arena and the recent political activities in our country that have to do with bolstering national dialogue in order to end the current situation in the country.

The Presidential Council blessed the ongoing dialogue among the parties of the political coalition, opposition forces, and several nationalist figures. The purpose of the dialogue is to discuss all issues of interest to the homeland, enhance unity and democracy, and ensure establishing a modern Yemeni state of law and order and constitutional institutions.

The Presidential Council affirmed that democratic dialogue is the best way to settle all differences and overcome all difficulties and challenges facing the homeland's march.

Further on Meeting

JN2911210093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2022 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting today under its Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. It discussed developments in the national arena and the recent political activities in our country that have to do with bolstering national dialogue in order to end the current situation in the country.

The Presidential Council blessed the ongoing dialogue among the parties of the political coalition, opposition forces, and several nationalist figures. The purpose of the dialogue is to discuss all issues of interest to the homeland, enhance unity and democracy, and ensure establishing a modern Yemeni state of law and order and constitutional institutions.

The Presidential Council affirmed that democratic dialogue is the best way to settle all differences and overcome all difficulties and challenges facing the homeland's march. The Presidential Council voiced appreciation for the brothers and the friends who adopted stands of solidarity with and support for our country and for its unity and democratic course, thus embodying the deep-rooted relations which bind our country to these states. The Presidential Council discussed several issues listed on its agenda and made the appropriate decisions.

Commander Stresses Army's Adherence to 'Unity'

JN2911073693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The military committee in charge of removing makeshift military manifestations yesterday morning visited the southern axis of operations.

Brother Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of the General Staff and head of the committee, as well as members of the committee, met with the brother commander of the axis and the commanders and officers of the brigades.

The axis commander stressed that all personnel of the Armed Forces adhere to unity and democracy. He said they are willing to sacrifice their lives to protect unity and the greater Yemeni homeland.

The axis commander also denied rumors propagated by several local and foreign newspapers, including tendentious, seditious reports meant to harm the unity of the Yemeni people. He affirmed that there are no differences among the brigades. He thanked the military committee for its good offices.

Brother Staff Lt. Gen. 'Ali Muhammad Salah made a speech at the Brigade Command, in which he asserted the Armed Forces' adherence to unity and democracy, which represent an irreversible option. He said the situation is now normal, affirming that Yemen needs a strong army to protect the nation from the true enemies of unity.

During the meeting, the committee answered questions by officers and soldiers about various issues in the axis and promised to find solutions to these issues.

Salih Delivers Independence Anniversary Speech

JN2911193593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Nov 93

["Text" of speech by Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemen Presidential Council, on the "26th independence anniversary and the evacuation of colonialism from a cherished part of our beloved homeland" and the anniversary of the conclusion of the unity agreement on 29 November 1989—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, the master of all worlds. Peace and blessings on the last of the prophets. Brother free citizens, sons of our lofty Yemeni people, peace and blessings be upon you: On the advent of the 26th independence anniversary and the evacuation of the colonialists from the cherished southern part of our beloved homeland on 30 November 1967, it pleases me to offer you sincere and heartfelt congratulations in my name and on behalf of the brother members of the Presidential Council on this national occasion, which is dear to all of us.

While celebrating this anniversary, we are dutybound to remember with gratitude and appreciation the convoys of righteous martyrs who offered their pure souls on the path of revolution and struggle. They saturated the tree of freedom and victory with their pure blood. We should also greet the groups of brave strugglers who made bountiful offerings, suffered all kinds of tribulations, and excelled in the various struggle stages, thus meriting God's saying: Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: Of them some have completed their vow to the extreme, and some still wait: But they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koranic verse]

Although lacking in terms of numbers and weapons, our defenseless masses' determination to struggle was the most trenchant weapon they had. Their faith in their God and homeland, their vying with one another for sacrifice and offerings, and the heroic epics that accompanied all this—which they recorded with courage, heroism, and rivers of blood—brought about victories that paved the way for the achievements that were attained, foremost of which is the great unity achievement of 22 May 1990, realized after its bases had been laid down by the historic Aden agreement, on this same occasion, four years ago on 30 November 1989. Thus, the dream we cherished, generation after generation, over the past two centuries became a reality after being an unattainable objective. Our homeland, which suffered for a long time from partition and fragmentation, became united. We all verily deserve to boast and be proud of this achievement: Regaining our homeland's unity before nations who were more advanced than us in terms of progress, awareness, and wealth. Thus, God has wished that the separated Yemeni families are again united.

With the marriage between unity and democracy and political pluralism, the doors of hope were flung wide open for our people to a shining future and a new Yemen. The people discarded the page of pains, sorrows, and conflicts, under which they lived in the past, under the division.

Regardless of the difficulties and challenges that have emerged since the flag of unity flew high over all parts of the homeland, our people are, God willing, determined to continue their steps to translate all their objectives and aspirations into reality, under the banner of unity and democracy, out of their firm belief that unity is here to stay and will be entrenched in the life of the country and people. Unity is their hope and great strategic goal. It truly crowned their long struggle and dear sacrifices. Unity is a great act and a historic national achievement, in which every Yemeni citizen takes pride, and which not a single Yemeni would relinquish. Unity is a plan for progress and a superb national formulation of a new Yemen and a modern state, based on the principles of justice, freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, social progress, and comprehensive civilizational awakening.

Dear brother citizens: The meaning of independence is not only linked to the greatness of the popular revolution of liberation that achieved independence. That meaning assumes its dear, sacred, and priceless national value from the epic of the war of liberation our people fought to defeat the imperialist hegemony over their resources. This meaning, replete with the great and [word indistinct] indications, puts us face to face, at all times, with the great responsibility of preserving the victory of

independence. This means not only the accomplishment of the political objective, but also the approach of the battle of (?construction) and advocating progress and (word indistinct] economic systems, social progress, and the civilizational substance of the homeland of 22 May in the age of unity and democracy, to which our people leaped in order to achieve their aspirations in self-reliance and (?utilize) the greatest wealth in life; that is [words indistinct] for a better life in our country.

Celebrating this dear national occasion is a demonstration of the sincere and living hope about what we should do, now and in the future. Our work should be uniquely suited to the greatness of the achievements and victories of our people. These achievements crown the history [words indistinct].

Whatever the challenges and difficulties, the homeland of unity, freedom, democracy, and development will remain a triumphant homeland because the people have free will and because their independent existence is deeply rooted. Their choice is to live in a creative, sacrificial, and productive spirit, by adhering to the democratic policy that accompanied unity and that stands as an entrenchment of this unity. This has been a civilized option for making progress for the homeland, based on the premise that democracy based on pluralism unleashes potentials of creativity and bountiful offerings on the basis of respect for all opinions, honest and responsible competition through programs by all political and national forces and key sectors to achieve the best, and the recourse to dialogue as an exemplary method to resolve all issues, problems and disparities that could be dictated by the reality of the democratic exercise. This is a natural and should not be feared because it provides immunity to the state and society against all perils.

At the same time, sincere work in all fields should be the prominent banner for sound nationalism and citizenship. We are confident that everyone in the homeland is aware that distorting democracy and freedom of expression by wrong and irresponsible practices harms the higher interests of the people and the homeland and empties democracy of its real and civilized context that is linked with work, creativity, and productive freedoms, and with the dignity of the human being, values, and a commitment to activate and safeguard human rights and public and private liberties. No real independence can be attained for any society without a commitment to national responsibility and without giving real value to freedom in that society, in all political, economic, social, and cultural fields.

For this purpose, we must safeguard and, indeed, revitalize our national days and the victory of independence by more work and sacrifices to meet the requirements of freedom and vindicate the homeland's rights in all fields. We must recognize the greatness of the sacrifices, patience, and wisdom of the Yemeni people and succumb to their will. Their will upheld constitutional legitimacy on 27 April 1993 in the free and direct balloting held on that date. We must also recognize this greatness through the establishment of this legitimacy's institutions, which must be respected. These institutions must shoulder their national and historical responsibilities with all courage and (?efficiency) in fulfillment of the people's [words indistinct], to vindicate their will, and to promote the homeland's higher interests.

Free brotherly compatriots: Since the reinstitution of unity some three and a half years ago, our Yemeni homeland has experienced tough challenges, particularly in the economic sphere. Some of these challenges were caused by international changes and variables, foremost among which were the negative repercussions of the Gulf crisis and the return home of more than 1.2 million expatriates. Other challenges surfaced as a result of schemes that are hostile to unity, democracy, and our national economy. Moreover, distortions have characterized political and democratic practices in our country as a result of political vituperations and machinations among political parties and organizations on the national scene. This has aggravated the economic situation in the country, obstructed many development endeavors, and impeded efforts to implement development and service projects and plans to consummate the building of a modern Yemeni state. Furthermore, this has had a direct and negative impact on the living standards of citizens, who are currently suffering from price hikes.

I would like to seize this occasion to urge the coalition government and all state institutions and organs to shun the manifestations of passivity, negativism, and red tape that prevailed during the (?previous) phase, and to start a new phase of work so they may shoulder their responsibilities, perform their tasks, and accord due attention to the tasks of developmental and administrative construction in order to address citizens' grievances and problems, particularly with regard to their living conditions. Moreover, all security violations must be halted. All criminals and violators, regardless of whoever they may be, must be brought to justice so fair punishment may be meted out against them. Likewise, we urge brother citizens to cooperate with the security organs to curb crime and promote security and stability in the homeland.

We urge all political forces and key sectors to work with a national spirit, avoiding party affiliations or political differences, placing the homeland's interests above all other interests and considerations. We, in the Presidential Council, stress our determination to extend every support to the coalition government to overcome economic difficulties and all the obstacles that hamper total change for the better. These obstacles hinder serious and honest efforts to achieve our people's ideal goals of national construction and comprehensive reform. We have confidence in what has been achieved, including a new move to support constitutional legitimacy, guarantee effective work for years to come, entrench the coalition government and parliamentary coordination to meet the electoral programs raised during the democratic

elections on 27 April 1993, and to carry out accurately and responsibly an agreement to deal with the exceptional situation in the homeland.

On this occasion, we stress the need for the coalition government to give special priority to development programs, improve living conditions, ease suffering, and take procedural and executive steps to apply the free zone law in the economic and trade capital, Aden, to promote its role in the national economy with new capable elements. We are confident that our proud, loyal, and great people will be able to achieve that goal, with God's help, on all internal and external levels of national construction. This will promote cooperative relations with our brothers and friends and with all regional, pan-Arab, and international institutions. Our ambition and hopes are not confined to our national concerns, but are linked with our faith, with our pan-Arab and human existence, and with the large concerns of our Arab and Islamic nation and of humanity around us.

Within this framework, we are looking forward to a new stage in which confidence is restored among all the Arab countries [words indistinct] and Arab solidarity on clear-cut fateful ties between the sons of the nation, promote their relations, and arrange the matters of the Arab home in order to be able to confront challenges. These challenges are imposed by the new, changing history. We should deal with this in a new spirit and with a unified position. We should take advantage of all lessons, tragedies, sorrows, merits, and stumbles. We should acknowledge the new situation, at least to promote the virtue that begins with the acknowledgment of right, adherence to rationalism, avoidance of distrust, and adherence to hope and to the great and noble values of our nation and humanity.

I seize this opportunity to express my deep thanks to and appreciation for all the brothers and friends who have supported our Yemeni people's march under unity and democracy and given voice to their deep and warm relations. These link our country and people with them. For our part, we stress our eagerness to promote these relations toward a more fruitful cooperation based on mutual respect and joint interests.

Dear brother citizens: I reiterate my heartfelt congratulations to you and through you to all the officers, warrant officers, and soldiers of our Armed Forces—the men who are loyal to God, the homeland, and the revolution and who are meeting their national responsibility as honest guards protecting the gains of the revolution and the republic; as protectors of unity, democracy, sovereignty, and constitutional legitimacy; and as soldiers of development, security, stability, and progress.

Glory to the martyrs of the Yemeni revolution of 26 September and 14 October—makers of all the national victories. Eternity to our great people and victory and eternity to unity, freedom, and democracy. Many happy returns. God's peace and mercy be upon you.

• Al-Bid on Violence, Seclusion, Negotiations

94AE0030B London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 12 Nov 93 pp 18-22

[Interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president, by Mulhim Karam, editor-in-chief; place and date not given: "I Am Working To Guard Against Any Confrontation, Entire Yemeni People Are Armed"—first five paragraphs are AL-HAWADITH introduction]

[Text] The interview with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid was extremely frank in calling things by their names and not watering the wine to temper its sharpness.

He was eager to speak the naked facts as he sees them, which is how he considers it necessary that they be raised, and in the way in which he believes they will inevitably be dealt with. After meeting President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, I went to the airport for my appointment with the vice president, which had been scheduled to take place just hours after my meeting with the president.

"Our strength has been sapped," said al-Bid, "but we will not fall into the trap!"

He stressed that Yemen belongs to him and his brethren. He wants it to be a united country that enters the next century happy and healthy. He said that he was for unity and democracy and that henceforth no armed confrontations would take place in Yemen. Unification was a great labor, and every exertion on its behalf was small. One should be optimistic.

At the beginning of the interview, I offered the vice president condolences on the death of his nephew and congratulations on the safe escape of his two children from attempted assassination.

[Al-Bid] Praise be to God, who alone is everlasting! "Every soul shall taste of death." The condolences still are limited to a family or two: that one can bear. What we cannot bear is condolence for the death of the country. This incident was the latest of the series of assassinations. It was not the first, but we hope it will be the last. These dastardly acts have been aimed at the Socialist Party for some time. Perhaps we have offered these sacrifices on behalf of the people. We believed they were acceptable to a certain extent. Ever since the martyr al-Hariri; then our comrade and Central Committee member Majid; then the justice minister, who is alive today, but suffers the effects of his wounds; then the residence of Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, whose bedroom was hit by a rocket, but God protected him; then Political Bureau member Sa' 'Ibad Muqbil, a member of the prime minister's staff, who was killed in broad daylight; then Political Bureau member Anis Yahya; and then the residence of the prime minister, a Political Bureau member and assistant general secretary of the party—we have always said, "Never mind!" and calmed our comrades, because we believed that the events of this great shift in the country could not happen without

sacrifices. We, along with the Central Committee and all good people, always worked to create calm. In the events of September and October we had offered a long line of martyrs; let us accept some of the same on the road to unity and democracy. Yet, in return for this long-suffering and yielding for the sake of the country, we are confronted with even more arrogance and by actions harmful to unity, democracy, and even to brothers—brethren, kin, and family relations. Finally they have even reached our homes. Never mind; for we are ordinary people—not special. When pestilence comes, it strikes everybody. Disease spreads; health does not. What has happened has happened. We always say that when fighters are tested, they must bury their martyrs and raise their voices in refusal to fall into the trap. We will not fall into the trap.

I call on journalists and media people to look at Yemen's tribulation, live with its citizens, and learn about their suffering. Let them make contact with public opinion, so that they learn what is happening and really going on in the streets. They should not be satisfied with drawing rooms, while we are on the threshold of transformation. If only we can turn the wheel with full control; or if this turn affords us balance, and we stand up to what can happen at these turning points! What is happening now are the birth pains. When we reunited or made the transition to unity on 30 November 1989, there were two sorts. There were some who thought about their dreams—I believe everyone with a cause dreams and that we search for our dreams. Our national dream was through this noble goal of Yemeni unity. We made the transition to it and clung to it. We thought that our brethren who had come together with us had the same concern and were no less committed to the goal than we, or even more so. We thought they shared our feelings; but the reality, unfortunately, was that there was a great difference between us in practice. We feel there are some who agree with you while holding to the Yemeni proverb: "Saved from the gallows for the gallows."

It was as if the event were not a historic labor for which we were obliged to offer everything in order to cross to broader horizons—also in behavior and in the things we undertook. We are truly pained about our brethren, for we are not a big target—and even the measures to achieve unity. Our fellow Central Committee members and party leaders know this; they expected the events of that shift regarding this. Yet we invested our zeal and determination, because we knew what was around us, and we managed the unification process in the forms of a coup. I say frankly that such enterprises cannot be done by means of coup operations. A great problem; but my assessment is that it is popular will. Unity—we were brought up on it and used to raise its slogan in the Yemeni national movement. I used to think this would be the cause. After it was signed, unity did in fact receive a great welcome for a great event that many had deemed unlikely.

Yet we were unable to retain the same zeal, determination, and strength through which we achieved unity in those moments. Afterward, a kind of hesitation and retreat took place, and what happened happened. We found ourselves in the grasp of those who could not go along with this great dream. We had stipulated democracy along with unity—our only stipulation. We went with all our colleagues to Sanaa. Many of us did not know Sanaa's way. I knew Sanaa's official way, but not its internal way. I knew where one turns to the prayer niche in the house, but I could not find my way by myself without anyone. Most of our comrades had this attitude. This, after all, was our country and our history—it is what we aspired to. We did not expect it from our brothers. I do not consider myself a guest in my own country. Even when you come to your brother's house, you do not consider yourself a guest. That is how we were in the first days. But how long did it continue? We did not expect to be confronted with bullets, siege, conspiracy, and such anxiety that we finally had to send our children to school with guards. It was wearying to the spirit; yet we were patient and unworried. We faced many difficulties. Democracy came, and we made concessions for it. In the past year I have sat here for three months and two days, from 1 August to 4 November. We were forced to go to Sanaa, although I felt it was of no use and that the people with whom we were working were not up to this great labor—or that there was other pressure from elsewhere. We participated in the elections because the Socialist Party, which propounds unification and democracy, could not retreat from the elections for the sake of the country. The election results were published; unfortunately the results really produced sectional reflections. The Socialist Party won the districts in the south. We also have two people from the [Popular General] Congress. We gave one person, Salih Baqays, a district in Hadramawt, and the Congress won against him. The other, in Shabwah, was the result of a very simple mess-up. We didn't contrive the situation; it was not a plot by us. I can tell you that the Socialist Party won in spite of itself. The people said, "We want it"—compared with what they were facing. The results arrived without incitement and without militant or parliamentary force or anything else. It was the citizens who incited themselves because of the mistakes. There had been many mistakes—actions damaging to unity, democracy, the unity of the Yemeni people, and the strength of the domestic front. These things were what led to this situation. All we did was to bear it patiently as a result of the provocation. We considered all these actions cheap, and that no great enterprise can be achieved without readiness to bear great difficulties. But, brother, I tell you briefly and plainly, that our every good trait has been used as a way to exhaust us: our love and patience, our wisdom, and our share in joint solutions. We have been thoroughly exhausted. Our benevolent attitude was not appreciated. We think no one can bear a grudge. On the contrary, there is action that is disturbing unity. I always used to talk about this. There were problems throwing unity into confusion. We were patient—"Never mind! Let's go on! No matter! There are times and circumstances!"—until we have finally reached a troubling situation. We are lined up on the

Yemeni scene—not the Socialist Party and the Congress. No, you do not believe this talk. It is not we who are creating this whole situation. The problem is between what the state, its institutions, and its laws want and those who reject that and are clinging to their interests outside the law—I mean the chaos that safeguards the interests of the gangsters and groups who play the main role in smuggling, illicit life, and lawlessness. The problem is between those who want the state and its institutions and those who want chaos and lawlessness to continue because they safeguard the interests of this group. Given such a situation, we say that the unified state cannot be safe, exist, and endure. How can unity and democracy exist without institutions? How can there be democracy without its exercise, without independent decision making, and without a security apparatus and a state? What unity? What democracy? The talk in the media and the political trickery are unacceptable. We went into unification sincerely and honestly. "We proposed our theses honestly and boldly." We never faltered by saying things we did not believe. The broadest ranks of the Yemeni people want unity and democracy based on building a state of institutions, order, and law. It seems that all these things are being treated with a certain lack of seriousness; some of those controlling certain areas of affairs seem utterly detached from what the people are demanding and unaware of it. These things, I say, will be contained, but they bother us. Our position requires continued steadfastness, struggle, and clear enunciation of the people's issues. The Socialist Party has put forward 18 points and will deal with any other points put forward in other forms by other groups—such as the 16 points. We have told the National Bloc and the Bloc of National Forces that we are ready for anything. This is an Arab attitude: my right and your right! Or neither my right nor your right—the right of the people! The Socialist Party has deferred to the 16 points, which are by a group of people outside the ruling coalition. We are discussing them, arriving at practice, moving into serious action, and avoiding lies. Dialogue is more useful than lying. We are the authors of unity. We are those advocating democracy and seeking common denominators. We are the ones who came up with the formula for the coalition. We know why we propounded it and why it was accepted at a particular juncture. We know all this—as the proverb goes, "The people of Mecca best know its mountain trails." Had these leaders disagreed, the coalition would not have been possible. Had it been up to certain individuals, the coalition would not have taken place. I said we should work out a formula, because I saw these leaders quarreling with each other in other Arab arenas in the Arab countries. No, in Yemen we want something else: everyone comes to power, and we test ourselves by practice and by the ability to solve the problems of the people and the country.

We made concessions for unity. We don't regret it. What we offered was based on our charity for the future and my charity for my young children whom they are killing and for the future that will be written about us through the eyes of our coming generations. For this we accepted making concessions. But we see something else, something that sadly is completely unchanging: rejection and ingratitude, things and actions—sadly, the kind of upbringing that is unacceptable to us as Yemenis. We pray to God for success. We are making every effort with all people and continuing every step for dialogue, but we understand that dialogue and democracy must lead to something. We have engaged in politics. Politics is the art of the possible, but not any sort of talk and mutual lying. It is reaching what can be reached. Let us be optimistic.

[Karam] Is what you have presented the cause of your seclusion?

[Al-Bid] As for the matter of seclusion that you have mentioned, its cause is that when one finds oneself unable to put forward anything, and so no longer knows what to do; when one's patience is exhausted; when one makes every effort and offers all concessions—then what? I think the best thing for a person is to stay aside, so as not to serve as window dressing for the government. Brother, we are fighters. If there were a place where I could sit to offer something to my people, my cause, and the struggle with which I was raised, we would be in it. We are ready to adapt, develop, and learn from the changes in our country and around us in the world. We know there are changes at this juncture. We sense that there are great transformations in the world, and we are part of this world. Perhaps what has happened is a new way of doing things in Yemen—for someone not to enter a conflict—isn't it so? I know the nature of the Yemeni people and the tragedies we have experienced. I therefore am working to avoid any friction, because I know we are a people who are all armed and that every one of us has his position. When problems arise among us, they are not easy. You have had such an Arab experience in Lebanon. If we begin, there will be no end to it. Some interpret our seclusion as fear. No matter! We do not want that. Besides, that is not what we are proud of. We want a different degree from a new school. We want to be given an opportunity to earn our degree in unity and democracy, in modernization, in dialogue, and in searching for remedies through new thinking: that is what we want. There are people who do not understand this and who say no. I am trying to make a different statement in a way not usual in our situation or in our past conflicts: that is my personal contribution. But the day I feel there is work, I will not sit or stay away for a moment. In the first years, until the elections of 17 April, we shouldered responsibility—we and the Congress—with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in particular. We tried our best. When we came out of the elections, we found that we couldn't. So we formulated the idea of a coalition and participated in the government. Some comrades in the party are talking with him, but there isn't any seriousness or readiness to free oneself from the force of habit in administering the country. There is a psychology of managing the country in crises—and that is dangerous. It is the politics of brinkmanship: bring the situation to the

brink and then they will accept. This attitude is not ours; it can be found in many countries. For example, bring people to the brink, and then I can say, "Brother, I will rule. Enough! I will make a solution. Let's go!"

Citizens reach such a state of frustration about their daily lives and security that they say to you, "Brother, rule as you wish. Let me live, and leave me alone!" This is an imported attitude. Where did this mafia attitude come from?—that we should create a problem for people and harass them until they acquiesce. Do you think the riyal is rising naturally now? Any economist who looks at the question will ask: "Is it possible for the dollar to rise 10 riyals from its exchange rate in a week?" What new economic factors have arisen in the country? But what is happening? There are those who say: "People now do not want peace, but rather dialogue and democracy. Therefore we will pressure them with something else—a rise in the cost of living." I raise the value of the dollar, which has a negative effect on people's living standard, and thus I create a state of weariness and readiness to acquiesce in order to emerge from the situation—the brink. Who controls this? Who controls it is well known. There are certain people who have control over these things. They have power over the moneychangers and their head, over the central bank and who plays with it, and over the treasury and who deals with the treasury—tremendous things.

In other words, we have several levels of exchange rate for the riyal. There is an exchange rate of five and one-half riyals to the dollar in the fifth paragraph of the finance ministry [law]. There is an exchange rate of 12 riyals at the finance ministry. There are rates of 18 and 25. Then there is the exchange rate in the marketplace. This is what people in these agencies are doing. So you take out at a rate of five and one-half riyals, and you sell at the market rate. This is what is being done now in the country without the approval of the cabinet or the competent authorities. There are the money changers and the one who heads them—they know who their head is. Go ask about "al-Habbah" and who he is! Meet him in Sanaa, and ask him how things are and how the dollar is! Honestly, I am telling you things about the reality of the country that you do not know. Who controls this situation? How is it managed? Can a central bank be managed by telephone? Can the country's economic policy take place by telephone? Neither cabinet decisions nor economic policy directives function. Only by telephone! This process has received the name of "the Marw state"—"the republic of Marw." Between the two previous republics—the Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Arab Republic of Yemen—we were trying to obtain a greater republic that would be better than the two. Then we found ourselves falling into and being turned against our will into "the Republic of Marw." It is a well-known formula that provides that you take everyone's place. This does not build a state. I am talking about a bitter reality we have experienced. Throughout the 30 years of our life as militants—what we have seen in the last three years is incredible—even the things we regret in our past conflicts: in the past years we have seen strange things of another sort.

[Karam] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih says there has been misreporting and intentional distortion and that this has caused the separation between him and you. He says that some people have sowed discord to spread this atmosphere between the president and his vice president.

[Al-Bid] Brother, I am not young. I am no child. I have thorough experience in life and great responsibility. I cannot be moved by a word or by anything of the sort. We have to be bigger than that. Were we so, we should not be where we are now. Three years' direct exercise of the job and the attempt to do something in common and bear responsibility for this great labor—now I have come to the conviction that we are too small for this great labor. We were able to proclaim unity and sign it. I always told 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih that this was enough honor for us. We have brought about unity. Let us leave and remove the log and the obstacles from the road. Let us say to the Yemeni people: "God bless you. This honor is enough for us." But we were too small in practice for history, and our stature was too short for what we were seeking and for the citadel we were building. Through practice I have become convinced that we are not up to that level. The least of it is that I find myself to be such. The others think otherwise; that is their business. I have this party as my responsibility. It has a collective leadership. I don't look down on that. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih can have his own way. But the search behind each of us concerns who is being pulled by interests; for anyone pulled by interests has his sight blinded. Interests are what blind—parasitic interests that come in a moment of inattention—and power abused in the hands of people not up to it and who do not know it; so they hold on to it at any cost, and the result comes from pushing and pulling. Furthermore, there are those pulling backward when we go forward. As for the issue of misrepresentation and the like, we aren't little children. We understand what we are doing. We have done and are still doing our duty. But we couldn't, so let's leave the matter finally to the people. We must not tie the country and unity to the interests of individuals. I personally am ready to give up anything. When coalition colleagues or others come to mediate, we tell them, "Mediate for the people with its rulers; do not mediate between the insiders; for we have not given the people what they are entitled to." In other words, do not engage in such mediation. We are ready to keep quiet and keep sitting at home. It is something different from seclusion. Anything—I am ready to leave the country. In the end, everything is for our country. Instead of our being proud and the world's being proud of the experiment on which we embarked, but in which intentions were not in agreement, we see both honor and pride collapsing before our eyes. Doesn't this touch us and affect us? Or shall we lead our people into problems and tension? We are against tension. We want to look for solutions with the same spirit of democracy and peacefulness under all conditions. We want to go forward; we do not want to mark time in place or go backward.

[Karam] Can't the solution be through dialogue and concessions, as President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has insisted?

[Al-Bid] That's O.K., brother—but let there be truth! When there is truth, fine with me! Let there be truth. Let there be acceptance of something. What's to prevent arresting the law breakers and those who have assassinated in broad daylight or under cover of darkness?

[Karam] Are these preconditions?

[Al-Bid] These are the people's preconditions. I have no personal preconditions. I have no private problem. There is no problem with our situation as individuals. However, brother, I am linked to this people. I am a part of it. I can't. If I find myself shackled there, what am I going to do? The apparatus there is not in my hand. The apparatus of the Yemeni Arab Republic is in the hands of the brethren in Sanaa. Despite all this, I didn't know that the apparatus of the Arab Republic all means the Republic of Marw. My consciousness and upbringing won't let me accept a return to the last century, when I want to go toward the next century. Brother, I have a reservation. I want to move into the next century with my people and with all good people. How can I accept a return to the last century? I do not want to return to the past.

[Karam] Is there real fear for the unity of Yemen?

[Al-Bid] I tell you that if there is anything good in this time, it is the focusing of attention on the issue of unity. There is a great focusing of emotion and awareness. There is a phenomenon I consider a great issue, one that demands great effort, broad agreement, and uniting of forces so that this great labor can take place. The danger is that we may hesitate and feign ignorance more than in the past. If we keep flattering each other and hesitate to move forward in these tasks that protect unity—here lies the danger. Between affirming an annexation policy and propounding a secession policy there is something that could protect this. We do not accept annexation, and we do not accept secession. Instead, we propose on Yemeni soil a state that is unified in all its institutions. If this does not take place, two things will be possible. There could be an annexation policy, which will be a difficult enterprise. Behind unity lie three years—that its age now—but previously there were three centuries of division. Three centuries—not 25 years, the total years of national struggle. The English entered Aden and these regions 300 years ago with the agreement of Yemeni shaykhs. The English signed agreements with Yemeni shaykhs while Imam Yahya was sitting in Sanaa claiming to rule Yemen. He was not able to leave the parties to mediate, and he was not able to annex these parties. This was the reason for the centralized mentality—that you overcome anything and sit in Sanaa. This mentality is the root cause for the abandoning of a historic unity. If we are going to experience the same central mentality without there being readiness to build a state with new mechanisms and a new path—the democratic path—we shall fall again into the same situation, without my desire or my decision. The new reality is taking shape. Before unity, we used to have 22 shaykhdoms and sultanates in the south. We united them and made a state out of them. If the state dissolves now, these entities will return. These entities are in fact taking shape again for protection. When one lacks protection by the state and when the state disappears, one looks for different forms of protection—from traditional relations to tribal, family, and sectarian relations. So we need a state to fill the vacuum in Yemen as a whole. We begin with a step or steps. You and I must feel that we have a program we are following step by step. We will establish a state of unity and democracy in the country, with all its mechanisms and systematicness, but step by step. We want to change in this way. Originally we were not all democrats—no one claims that. We want to learn or clear a path for others. It will be our destiny to have opened the path. Our conviction that if we only take the initiative to open the path, that will be a great honor for us—that conviction is enough for us.

[Karam] Do you see fears of reaching the point of violence and military disputes?

[Al-Bid] We always call for dialogue and a democratic atmosphere. This is our view as a socialist party. All Yemenis, especially good young people, want this dialogue and atmosphere. We will not be drawn into disputes and bloody military clashes. We must avoid falling into the trap that I alluded to at the beginning of the interview.

[Karam] One shortcoming of the administration and bureaucracy is that they are charged with being slow and disorganized and with delaying Yemen's promised development. Is this true?

[Al-Bid] The united state has not built up its apparatus: that is the real defect. The united state has not been able to develop the apparatus to build a state of unity. We have operated with the apparatus of the Yemeni Arab Republic. I tell you that we went to Sanaa and fell into the apparatus of the Yemeni Arab Republic, with all its keys, relationships, and habits. That is why we have not built. We wanted this concession to be for building a new state of this size, not with an apparatus and mentality smaller than it. The result of the pulling back and forth has brought us to this situation. This apparatus is not up to the level of the state we seek. The result is that some insist on establishing a large state with an apparatus and mentality too small for it and with work inferior to the ability required to advance this great enterprise. This is the general situation. Neither the prime minister nor we can do anything but make telephone calls and personal relations. This is what has wrecked unity and exposed it to this situation.

[Karam] Has the army merged?

[Al-Bid] Unfortunately, no merger has occurred. Unity was supposed to be by merger, not by gathering. This has not happened—even some formalities on the civilian side. As for the military establishments, they have not

merged. There was a desire for them to merge in a certain way. How? Instead of building and undertaking humane action, we bring a person out of barbarism into institutions. Yemenis used to consider bribery an affront. Today there is open corruption. We sensed that there was intentional work of sabotage to bring out everything both from the barbarism and from the good things in man into the military establishment and into the civilian establishment. This work that has taken place, they want to formulate it the way that some person sees fit. It is not known about, but it certainly is not something good. A good thing announces its presence boldly, it does not hide. We speak from our conviction. There is nothing that we hide. Whoever conceals something is someone betting that it will be taken in by others and on his getting ahead in life. I tell you that the merger will not happen, because there is insistence that unification take place with a certain mentality than could lead to division. We made every effort, but we were unable. It was like speaking to a corpse. Whom do you talk to?

[Karam] Have the weapons been collected?

[Al-Bid] No, the weapons are with the Yemeni people. They can be found everywhere. They are now smuggling weapons into the country. Brother, is it possible for a responsible official to smuggle? Officials are smuggling weapons into the city. Two days ago, in public, there was a 15-ton truck with a load of flour. The soldier who saw it wondered that its tires were so flat and said to himself, "Could flour conceivably do this to the tires of a big 15-ton Mercedes? How can it be weighed down to the ground?" So he stopped it and searched and found large quantities of weapons. Little information has come out about the affair. To whom are they sending the weapons? The president says they are for central security. Fine, why isn't the driver given a paper and come normally and enter through channels? Who is doing this? SAM-115 rockets, a shoulder-carried rocket against any resting vehicle, RPG rockets, and Dushka machine guns—the driver is a civilian, the vehicle is civilian, and they put a police license plate on it! Then the president called, saying, "Why did you stop the weapons and confiscate them?" We replied, "It was shameful for you to do this." He said, "It was because you refused to assign any weapons to me." Yes, I stopped every weapons disbursement. I said it was impossible, and I told the defense minister, "You may not disburse funds for any piece of weaponry." Yes, the president asked that they disburse the cost of weapons to him, and I immediately refused. I refuse to distribute weapons, even if I violate the law and obedience. This action is legitimate. Why are we distributing weapons at home? For what? Isn't it so that we can fight each other? This is inflaming the situation. I stopped it. They brought a smuggling truck to bring in weapons, and I didn't agree. These words are what the president himself said. Some are working to go back to problems, and some desire division—they, not we. We are a political party; when we make a decision, we debate it and disagree, but in the end the party's decision is carried out. They, however, work differently. Because they are a group of people with power to make decisions, they hurry to reach their convictions. Who is it who is strengthening the former lines of division? Just yesterday they brought in two battalions, one armored, the other infantry, to (Maqtabah). There is a camp in (Maqtabah). The two battalions took up positions near the border that divided the two halves of the country. Yet did we move a single soldier or make any move? We cannot do that. That is what is happening there. And after that there is a desire for us to talk! If the Yemeni people want division into two, it is they who will decide, not we who decide for them. We brought about unity on their behalf and represented their will. Does the will of the Yemeni people today want division? Let us consult their will and not act on our own. But they want division from the division markers that used to exist. There is fear that they are not there and that it will therefore be impossible to put them in the same place. It is not we who do not accept. It is possible that the people will not accept putting them in this place.

[Karam] Do you think the fundamentalist Islamic movement will have an extension in Yemen?

[Al-Bid] That depends on our ability to deal with the problems of everyday life. The fundamentalist tide in many Arab countries is related to the inability of rulers to deal with citizens' problems. So young people look for a way out. Like drowning people looking for a way out, they think that this or that organization can save their lives. If we in Yemen can solve the objective problems, build a united state, and improve people's living standard, this tide will recede—and similarly elsewhere. When a young man graduates from college and finds no hope before him for life, marriage, work, or settling down, where does he go? Like a drowning man, he grasps any stick.

[Karam] Will rejection continue among Palestinians opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, or will they return to adopt the position of the PLO on the agreement?

[Al-Bid] My friend, I am for Palestinian unity. If they took an incorrect stand while they were unified, they could correct it at any time, being unified. If they take a difficult position while they are unified, they can develop it. I am for the unity of the Palestinians, because it is the key and the solution in all circumstances, both in circumstances of progress and in those of retrenchment.

[Karam] What comments do you have about the new international order?

[Al-Bid] The international order has not taken shape. There are international relations. We know that the Americans now are working to expand some areas and restrict others. They say that they are working to expand the area of democracy and of human rights and that they are working to restrict two areas: to limit the spread of weapons of nuclear destruction and to remove local conflicts. This is what the Americans say. The United States today is the only state. But in my opinion, life does not rest on one axis. Something else will take shape. So

let us deal with international relations, develop them, and keep step with them. Let us look for the things that have changed in them and the factors for development, so that we see something else. For I believe that the world will see something else. These international relations can cause a new international order to emerge. But let us deal with the reality and study matters with leaders everywhere. We must move forward in our thinking.

[Karam] Do you think that communism is finished, or could it return?

[Al-Bid] Among the changes that have occurred in the world is the obliteration of much that had been prevalent. However, I am ready to accept the unfamiliar in everything that happens. We must adapt to the unfamiliar. Communism, socialism, other things, and capitalism may perhaps take other forms, but social justice preceded them all and is more lasting than all of them.

It was a demand of people and will remain a demand, because it means righting wrongs. People will continue to work for it. The new formula for man's struggle may be different. We cannot anticipate time, but we march with it, keep step, and adapt to it. We use knowledge and wisdom to manage affairs whenever a disturbance of equilibrium occurs.

[Karam] Can Europe fashion a role to be a new giant in the face of America? Could it assume positions clearly supporting and strengthening the Arabs?

[Al-Bid] I have no information because of the weakness of centers of observation and research. I cannot know what the role of Europe and the United States will be, but I am looking for something to take shape. Something is taking shape in Europe and in the United States, too. It means that the situation will not remain as it was before the cold war. Under the present circumstances something else will take shape. In southeast Asia—what about China and Japan? In any case, we have to deal with the changes.

[Karam] What is your view of what is happening in Somalia?

[Al-Bid] We hope that this people will emerge from the sad conditions that are tearing it apart. We are a neighboring country. We have 60,000 Somali brothers among us who have immigrated—most of them in the southern regions. We hope for a solution and want stability for everyone. Without stability, there is no growth, no development, and no life.

[Karam] And Lebanon?

[Al-Bid] We wish Lebanon success and further steps along the road to stability. May it once again be Lebanon the beautiful. We hope to visit it, as we wanted when we were young, and that it will rebuild itself, God willing, with the cooperation of its Arab brothers. We have resources, but unfortunately they are not under our control. When they come under our control, it will be possible to do many things. A mentality could be created, and we would search for what is possible in our relations as Arabs. We could reevaluate the old pages of history, close them, and open new pages of optimism and hope for us all. It is not impossible. What happened happened, but can't we avoid repeating the mistakes that once happened? We are talking about the Gulf war. It is a crisis from which there can be no escape. Even if we did not participate in it, all the Arabs felt it. We have to succeed in moving away from its residues—move away from them by discussing the ways out with a new mentality. A new mentality is needed—practice guided by knowledge and reason. There must be an ability for dialogue and progress on the clear road. May God grant everyone success!

* Salih on Al-Bid, Unity, Security, Currency

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[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Mulhim Karam, editor-in-chief; place and date not given: "Bad, Very Dangerous Proposals Like Federation and Confederation Have Begun To Be Made; Al-Bid's Withdrawal Caused by Dispute With His Comrades, Intentional Misreporting of Information"—first eight paragraphs are AL-HAWADITH introduction]

[Text] Who thinks that the situation in Yemen is not delicate, that the elements of the problem are not serious, and that tribal settlements may be useful this time in reaching desirable conclusions to a deep-rooted crisis?

Yemen remains the most important subject, the one that most arouses people's curiosity. It remains, that is, the event of the hour in light of fears and anxiety.

AL-HAWADITH met the president of Yemen, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and also met the vice president, Professor 'Ali Salim al-Bid, both of whom spoke with maximum frankness.

The two interviews took place in succession on the same day. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih greeted me and congratulated me for receiving the Union Press Freedom Prize that the International Journalists' Organization awarded me in 1993. "Congratulations," he said kindly, "especially as this is the first time the prize has been given to an Arab union chairman. You deserve it."

I thanked him in return and said that I owed Yemen a debt of gratitude for insisting that the ceremony be held on its soil, rather than in Beirut, where it had originally been planned to present the certificate to me.

President Salih responded to my lengthy questions and continued in the same tone, stating that everything could be solved by dialogue, one step here and another there. Then there would be concessions; everything would conclude, and Yemen would return to union and mutual understanding.

"The danger to us," he said, "is from ourselves. There are people who are penetrating through the gaps that the disagreements have caused."

I intended the discussion to be with the two main actors in all the events—the two men to whom all Yemenis look, searching for the future of their country and its unity through their positions.

[Karam] How do you see the current state of affairs in Yemen in light of the accelerating developments?

[Salih] It is true that Yemen is passing through difficulties. We hope to work through these difficulties, which we consider an accidental phase in the context of democratic practice. We are at the beginning of the road, and some differences and difficulties are inevitable, but we insist that everyone abide by the constants and common denominators. Apart from that, there can be dialogue on any aspect of economic life, living standards, politics, and security. There can be dialogue on everything, but we must stress the unchanging fundamentals: unity and democracy.

True, the enemies of unity and democracy have begun to penetrate and infiltrate through these differences. We do not say that there is any danger to our unity and democracy from others. The danger to us is from ourselves. Enemies can do nothing if the domestic front is secure. If it really is cohesive, all ventures will fail; but if the domestic front is split, there lies the danger. We are making every effort for dialogue and mutual understanding to continue among the different political forces and coalition parties: the [Popular General] Congress, the Socialist Party, and the [Yemeni Coalition for] Reform. We hope to find understanding among the brothers in the party in Aden when they hold a meeting of the party leadership. We hope they will make reason and logic rule, because unity and democracy are an enormous undertaking of which we are proud. We state to our brothers and to you here that everything is insignificant in comparison with unity and democracy. We are ready to sacrifice everything for these two things and leave power. We have experience. We must preserve our self-respect in the Arab world, especially in the peninsula, the Gulf region, and the world; for we achieved unity at a time when no one imagined it was possible or would happen. Now they have started to penetrate and exploit the differences. They have found fertile ground for themselves and have started to exploit various areas: differences over security, the economic situation, and all the shortcomings. Yet I am certain that the people as a whole and all its patriotic forces are for unity and democracy. The problem is one of differences with certain top leaders. We hope to work it out by dialogue and mutual understanding—by concessions. We will make concessions to each other. Concessions means concessions to this nation, not to a person, individual, party, or organization. We hope to make reason and logic rule, rather than anything else, because we have no choice but to talk. Our choice is dialogue and mutual understanding. Our hope is great that the party leaders will understand the matter while they are gathered in Aden. Perhaps there will be a new vision. Dangerous—very dangerous—proposals have begun to be made. Their danger will be worse than any situation, even before unification. They will have a very, very negative impact. If you made a study and surveyed public opinion, you would find no respectable citizen who did not side with unity and democracy. You will find differences, but there can be dialogue about them. What people agree on will become obligatory; what is not agreed on will remain a subject for talks until conviction is reached about it. This is what we aim for. Our hope is great that we can preserve Yemen and maintain its unity. This is an achievement that belongs not to Yemenis alone, but to the Arab nation and all the forces for unity in the Arab and Islamic world. That this nation is united will be a source of pride to us all. Yet we must realize that there are some who do not desire for us a great enterprise such as this—for it is indeed a great enterprise. Political pluralism and press freedom in a poor, developing country do not exist in any other country—despite the strides in consciousness and culture some regimes have made—as they have begun to exist in Yemen. Yemen has begun seriously and credibly to implement public freedoms, democracy, freedom of the press, and freedom of opinion. This is an achievement. This great liberalization was one of the factors that aided the establishment of a reunited state despite the attack on unity and democracy. The liberalization was able to absorb much economic and social error, notwithstanding the return of over 1.1 million expatriates, which was a disaster. Yet when they returned home, they found new breathing room that greatly helped them. This naturally increased the conspiracy. They considered it in itself a revolution, because the very return of the expatriates constituted a danger and a revolution; yet we absorbed them. Now the present differences and disagreements have arisen, and they have tried to penetrate through them. The latest thing in this area is what one newspaper has unfortunately published. Our hope is to make reason and logic rule, overcome private interests, and put Yemen's interest above all interests; otherwise we shall be drawn into what the enemies of this nation desire. This country is rich in patriotic figures. These figures, whether on the extreme right or the extreme left, have begun to sense the danger. They are now saying silently: "Yemen is in danger. We are for Yemen. We are for unity and democracy." True, everyone, whether in the [Popular General] Congress, the Socialist Party, the Ba'th, the Muslim Brotherhood, or the Nasirists, has his own view. Yet they are elements with patriotic inclinations and consider Yemen to be above everything. Some who were against unification and who spoke or did not speak out publicly have begun to surface now that difference have appeared, bringing insolent and evil schemes such as confederation or federation. They have begun circulating the idea that the experiment of unification was unsound. These are some of the dangers we face, despite the fact that our people are united and there are no minorities on Yemen's territory, but only a Muslim people. Sectarianism does not exist. This is what we are proud of. One

can exploit the economic situation, people's living standards, or the split personality of some figures in order to penetrate through these gaps. Our hope is in our people and the good forces in our Yemeni homeland. All virtuous people in the greater Arab world, wherever they are, are with us. Unionists, wherever they may be, must support this unity and strengthen the hand of all sincere and honest people to preserve it.

[Karam] How do you see the security situation in Yemen today? What is being done to make it more stable?

[Salih] If I go back a time in memory, the security situation in the south of the country was as good as could be desired, and the security situation in the north was as good as could be desired. With the country's unification, political and party pluralism, and the lack of unification of political will at the top of the state's structural pyramid, a new, somewhat different reality was created. The security [apparatus] is the existing security [apparatus], and the security leadership is the same, as well as the personalities. However, everyone understands democracy and pluralism from his personal point of view. Whenever a security disturbance took place, we tried to take bold steps, but they were interpreted as an attack on this or that political party. The danger lies in any shortcoming by an agency, department, or security leader, or by figures who commit foolish acts to disturb security. Then, if any measure is taken, it seems as if it were against this political organization. Although some of the perpetrators of assassinations and security disturbances are known, the political will to take responsibility for decisions has not been present. One person wants to carry out security measures, while the other tells them: "Get rid of them. We are with you." These are dangerous methods that have begun. Some want a security flare-up and to provide justifications for a return to division. Some are trying to inflame the security aspect and justify their behavior to make it a political story. If political will becomes unified, we can apprehend them and stop them. Security is everyone's security—the security of every citizen. Some want to give every citizen the impression that there is security unrest.

The security apparatus is complete. The police are the police, and the leaders are the leaders, but the political will has not been present: that is the present disappointment. Everyone is going back to his old thinking—that if he held the reins of power in the north, he would be able to put the security aspect in order. Another thinks that if he went back to the south, he would be able to put the security aspect in order with his old ideas. We had finished with the ideas of the sectional mentalities on which we operated in the period before unification, so that we brought a new mentality. Unification of the political will did indeed begin with unification. But, as the proverb says, "Forty words are like a charm." When someone harps on one note, even if it is false, others run after him. That is the danger. People are anxious. Yet we are confident in our mind that however great the anxiety, we can deal with matters through dialogue, and only dialogue. Whoever is thinking of something else will be the loser. No one will be the winner. We have experiences: the tragedy of 17 January in the south and the tragedy of August 1968 in the north. These are our schools. However, some still think their own view is the most correct. We call for gathering together all positive ideas by all parties and shaping them to form a unified thought without imposing the opinion of any party on the others. Our hope of overcoming the disagreement is great—God willing! As we said, the security problems are mostly not dangerous. The danger is only in unity of decision making. As for security, any authorized person can impose it—it is not difficult—provided that there is unity of political will in the government and all agencies of the state.

[Karam] Yemen's currency is witnessing a decline in relation to hard currencies. Is what it is undergoing a reflection of the political crisis? Are there any measures to support it and stop its decline?

[Salih] There was a supply of currency outside the country. It began to infiltrate to buy dollars. Perhaps the forces of the conspiracy spent sums to buy dollars to decrease the value of the riyal and manufacture a crisis by raising prices. The plotters thought that a high exchange rate and high cost of living would lead to popular uprisings, and if there were popular uprisings, unity and democracy would be abolished automatically. We had experience of this sort that began on 9 and 10 December 1990. These forces began to move. Previously they had not been public, but had been hidden—I call them the fifth column. They were hidden in the north and the south. When political and party pluralism came, they breathed freely. But instead of breathing freely with their knowledge of conditions in the country, to improve them and guide the economic situation, they began to carry out their goal, of which they had been deprived for 30 years. They are reactionary forces whose goal is to impede the revolution and the republic. They found a suitable climate among our comrades in the Socialist Party, because some leaders from the south—you do not know them—considered them the channels that would enlighten them about affairs in the northern governorates. So they drew them into doubt and made some Socialist Party leaders suspect that everything was dangerous and everything was against them. These in reality are the enemies of unity and democracy. It offended them that unification and democracy had come through the Socialist Party and the Congress, not through them. Some of them are reactionaries; others were republicans, but begrudge every accomplishment.

[Karam] In all plainness, how do you view the withdrawal to Aden of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid?

[Salih] The withdrawal of brother 'Ali Salim was not really a withdrawal in these terms; it was merely an expression of his disagreement with his comrades in the party leadership. 'Ali was not at odds with the Congress, with any personality, or with the coalition parties. There was a disagreement between him and some party leaders because they signed agreements while he was out of the

country. They ratified agreements with the coalition; then he came, and first he opposed them, and secondly opposed us for having signed while he was away. This was despite our having said at a party meeting that if the Socialist Party had difficulty, the agreement should be delayed until comrade 'Ali Salim's return. Our brothers in the party leadership replied, "We are a single party, and we can commission someone to represent us." In fact, he expressed his disapproval to some party leaders because we had signed the agreement in his absence.

Three points then began to be raised. The first was about the form of the presidency. The second was the local administration. The third was the creation of a consultative council based on improving the formula of the proposal that was agreed on. We accepted this talk and referred it to a drafting committee. However, some elements that hated unity changed matters and tried to exploit them and move them behind 'Ali Salim's back to implant fears and suspicions in him. They made everything look dark to him, and so he published his 18 points, after the three points. After he published them, the media side escalated. We told our colleagues in the Socialist Party that 'Ali Salim's presence in Aden was fertile material for the party press and for all vengeful and unpatriotic forces and that his presence there gave people an opportunity to talk. 'Ali Salim's return to Sanaa is the solution—so that he can hold talks with institutions and organizations and with parliament. Anything he says is true, but there are elements that have tried to aggravate the situation and encircle brother 'Ali Salim. They encircled 'Ali Salim; some political leaders even began to mobilize the public—and they did mobilize this public. They mobilized some elements, especially those who do not want unity, and it became difficult for us to go back to gather them up. How can we mobilize them in every direction and then go back to mobilize them in a different direction? This is something difficult. One fears that with it things could get out of control. They did begin to get out of control, because the mobilization was wrong.

These bad elements started to stir things up. Finally, some of them went to mediate with 'Ali Salim and conveyed talk to him that widened the split between us. They did not try to allay the anger and remedy the crisis.

[Karam] Has the president of Eritrea, Issayas Afeworke, made an effort to solve the crisis? Is King Husayn about to make an attempt in this direction?

[Salih] President Afeworke paid a friendly fraternal visit. He tried to sound out public opinion among us and among our brothers in the socialist south, because Eritrea is a neighboring country. While he was here, he explored the situation and became acquainted with people's ideas; then he left. As for King Husayn, he sent us a letter saying that he was worried about unity, urging the leaders in Yemen to it and to make concessions to each other and to work through the crisis.

[Karam] Can the Arab summit be held? Does the atmosphere exist for holding it?

[Salih] We can say that after the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement in America and the Arabs' handshake with the president of the Israeli entity, the time has come for Arabs to shake hands with each other. If we have shaken hands with the Israelis, is it right for us to continue shunning each other? I think the time has come for everyone to rise above the wounds and residues of the past that resulted from the Gulf crisis and shake hands.

[Karam] Is Israel serious about peace, or is it play acting?

[Salih] This really is a question for the negotiators, because we have had no contact with Zionism. The front-line countries are closer and better acquainted than we.

[Karam] Is the development of relations between Yemen and the Gulf countries aimed at restoring Arab solidarity?

[Salih] There is no problem from Yemen's point of view with the Gulf states. Our relations with them broke up during the Gulf crisis. We are making every effort to forget the past. Yemeni diplomacy has begun to be revitalized with the Sultanate of Oman, the Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia.

[Karam] Does fundamentalist extremism have roots in Yemen? Are there fears among you of an experience like that of Egypt and Algeria?

[Salih] The situation is different with regard to the Islamic movement in Yemen. This movement is more rational than other such movements, particularly because it has entered parliamentary elections and won seats. We were perceptive and learned from the experience of Algeria and some regimes that violence and isolating these forces are not wise. It is better to allow these political forces to participate and contribute to building Yemen. As long as we believe in all the orientations—nationalist, leftist, independent, and rightist—people have the right to contribute to building Yemen, each to the extent of his ability. I think it is wise to allow the Islamic forces to participate in governing. It is better than excluding them, with the result that events take the course they have in Algeria, Egypt, or any [other] Arab country.

[Karam] You talk about how foreign capital is interested in investment in Yemen. What preparations have you made to welcome it, and what facilities will be provided for it?

[Salih] An investment law has been passed that offers all facilities and guarantees to foreign investments. We have about 28 companies active in the field of oil and gas. The government is giving them every consideration and facility under the investment law, and there are a number of other investments enjoying all facilities and the care of the Yemeni government.

[Karam] You set 30 October as the date for the meeting of Hamas and the other Palestinian organizations in Yemen. Was the meeting delayed because those invited refused or did matters arise and prevent it from being held?

[Salih] We scheduled the meeting on the basis of consultation with the PLO and the Hamas leadership. We found them ready to come to Sanaa. We have received nothing new yet. Perhaps Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's preoccupation with accepting the invitations addressed to him by the Europeans and his nonstop visits are among the factors that have prevented this meeting. However, the door remains open—and at any time. The Palestinian factions can meet: Sanaa is ready to embrace them all.

[Karam] Why do you not disarm the people?

[Salih] We have a law in Yemen that gives citizens the right to bear arms. A law that limits and regulates the bearing of arms exists. It has been the right of every Yemeni citizen to bear arms—there is no prohibition against it. However, there is a prohibition against crime, and the way of bearing arms [is regulated]: who can bear them? at what time? how? and on what occasion? The law does not forbid bearing arms, but regulates it for all Yemenis in Sanaa, outside Sanaa, and throughout Yemen.

[Karam] People are asking why people who overcame all difficulties, ended the division of Yemen, and united the country cannot end the crisis more quickly now.

[Salih] My view is that the distance of the leaders from each other is one of the factors that make it more difficult to solve the problem. The closer the leaders are to each other, the more they can work through the crisis and the differences. Perhaps one of the plots of the forces opposed to unity and democracy is that they keep working to prevent the leaders from meeting.

[Karam] What was discussed between you and French President Mitterrand during his recent visit to Sanaa?

[Salih] The conversation dealt with bilateral relations and ways of cooperation between the countries—how to stimulate and strengthen it in the cultural, economic, and artistic areas.

[Karam] Will you seek membership in OPEC [Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries]?

[Salih] There is nothing that calls for it.

[Karam] What about Lebanon? Is it on a course toward sure health?

[Salih] We hope that full health will encompass Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and all the occupied territories—that health will encompass the entire Arab homeland. South Lebanon and the Palestinian people have suffered many difficult days. We hope the current efforts will terminate in a just peace.

[Karam] If peace is signed between the Arabs and Israel and it brings about complete solutions, will the Yemeni Jews return to Yemen?

[Salih] As for us, the Constitution guarantees every Yemeni citizen the right to travel and the right to return, wherever he may be. Our Constitution permits this to all citizens equally. There is no discrimination with us in citizenship.

[Karam] Are you satisfied with the role of Yemeni capital in developing and building Yemen?

[Salih] Yemeni capital certainly has contributed greatly in the area of development. The more settled security and stability become, the more investment it can bring about. The activity or lack of activity of national, Arab, or foreign capital depends on security and stability. The more settled security and stability become, the more domestic and foreign investments increase.

Talks With Chinese Delegation Begin 25 Nov

JN2511183293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Nov 93

[Excerpt] A round of Yemeni-Chinese talks began today. Brother Husayn al-Maqdami, secretary of the Advisory Council, headed our country's delegation to the talks, while Seypidin Aziz, vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference [CPPCC] National Committee, led the Chinese side to the talks.

Cordial speeches were exchanged between the two sides. The secretary of the Advisory Council welcomed the CPPCC National Committee delegation's visit to our country. He said: Yemeni- Chinese relations are very old, especially since our country was the first to establish economic and political relations with China in 1958. These relations were bolstered by the Yemeni-Chinese Friendship Treaty in 1964. He noted that the Yemeni-Chinese relations include cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, cultural, and health fields.

The CPPCC National Committee vice chairman expressed the delegation's pleasure in visiting our country and stressed the importance of this visit in promoting relations between the friendly Yemeni and Chinese peoples. He praised Yemeni unity, describing it as a great force that will effectively contribute to the Yemeni people's development, and will bring them security and stability. In this regard, he spoke about China's support—from its leadership, government, and people—for the Yemeni unity.

Concluding his speech, he expressed hope that this visit will contribute to promoting relations between the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

Clinton's 'Detestable' Rushdie Meeting Scored

JN3011112993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has ridiculed U.S. President Bill Clinton's recent reception of the renegade Salman Rushdie at the White House.

In an article today, the newspaper says: The U.S. scheme, hostile to both Islam and Muslims, is currently displayed in its ugliest forms through what is taking place in Iraq's Kurdistan, which is under the control of agents.

AL-'IRAQ adds: The stationing of the U.S. Central Intelligence elements in Iraq's Kurdistan aims to facilitate the transfer of Kurdish youths to the United States for residence and work on condition that each Kurdish youth tear apart eight copies of the holy Koran as the price for reneging on his tolerant religion and deviating from the correct path advocated by God's holy book.

AL-'IRAQ affirms that this lowly conspiracy and fierce onslaught will not undermine the deep faith of our Kurdish people, whose adherence to their religion is such that they are ready to sacrifice themselves and become martyrs for their religion. The paper urges clergymen to confront this rancorous U.S. campaign and expose its malicious objectives, which are targeting the Kurds in particular in accordance with a planned U.S.-Zionist scheme. This scheme aims to shatter Iraq's territorial integrity and the Iraqis' unity.

The paper adds: Clinton's dirty and detestable reception of the renegade Salman Rushdie has numerous implications and meanings. Clinton's warm welcome of this renegade confirms the major U.S. role in launching a war of annihilation, whenever a suitable opportunity occurs, to liquidate Islam and curb the voices of the faithful who view U.S. tyranny and hegemony as a defiance of heavenly and earthly values.

The paper calls for jihad under the banner of God is great to end U.S. arrogance and belligerence, which conflict with justice, fairness, and the human principles advocated by Islam and other divine religions. It points out that annihilating, repressing, and displacing Muslims from their homes as well as encroaching on their religion and the sanctity of the holy Koran are all wicked missions carried out by the United States according to military field steps and measures.

AL-'IRAQ explains that had the U.S. President been sure that his disgraceful behavior would receive the rejection and disapproval of the Muslim leaders he would have thought twice before receiving Salman Rushdie at the White House. The U.S. President, however, is well aware that the agent rulers, just like the conspiratorial group of Hafar al-Batin, will be as silent as the dead and will not make any statement, even suggesting blame, let alone denunciation.

The paper wonders: What can we say about the Saudi rulers, and similar rulers, who clamorously allege that they are responsible for protecting the Muslim holy places and safeguarding Muslims' interests and religion, at a time when they adopt this shameful and disgraceful position on Clinton's reception of the renegade Salman Rushdie. These rulers shamelessly bless the U.S. invasion of Muslim territory in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia. Previously, they deployed the armies of infidelity in Hafar al-Batin to strike at the stronghold of faith, demolish the edifice of great Iraq, and harm the faithful Iraqi people.

AL-'IRAQ adds: This is actually the debt of the agent rulers, incurred when they disavowed the principles of their religion, discarded their pan-Arab identity, and turned into cheap tools in the hands of the White House masters.

Concluding, the paper says: Muslims everywhere are duty-bound to raise their voices high and denounce the unjust campaign led by the United States. This campaign is targeting the Muslims' present and future as well as their future generations.

'Aziz Meets UN's Ekeus; Ekeus Remarks Reported

JN3011100593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0926 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] United Nations, 30 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held a third and last meeting with Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, in New York yesterday, Monday, evening.

The INA correspondent in New York has said that the meeting, which lasted one hour and 45 minutes, was attended on the Iraqi side by Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, head of the Military Industrialization Organization; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative.

Outside the Iraqi ambassador's residence in New York, Ambassador Ekeus stated the following to reporters after the meeting: We have concluded the talks on the political level. We now have a joint report, which will be submitted to the Security Council later today.

Ambassador Ekeus said that he believed that the Security Council would reply positively and precisely to the joint report. He added: We agreed to meet again in the second half of January. Ekeus, however, declined to indicate the level of the next meeting or its venue, but suggested that it will be a high-level meeting.

In another development, the INA correspondent has learned that France proposed to the Security Council members that a presidency statement be issued welcoming both Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations and its acceptance of Resolution 715.

The Security Council members are due to hold informal consultations today, and will address many international issues. The joint Iraqi-UN Special Commission report may be among these issues.

Official UN sources said the second meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali yesterday evening, was a positive meeting, which will help promote UN relations with Iraq.

'Aziz Meets Moroccan, French, Russian UN Envoys

JN3011075693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz this morning met with the ambassadors of two of the permanent member states of the Security Council and an ambassador of the non-permanent member states.

For the second time, 'Aziz met with Ambassador Ahmed Senoussi, Morocco's UN representative and non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Afterward, 'Aziz met separately with French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee and Russian Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov. This is the second time 'Aziz has met with the Russian and French ambassadors during his current visit to the United Nations.

After midnight, Baghdad time, 'Aziz is scheduled to meet with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali in his office at the United Nations. This will be the second meeting in seven days between 'Aziz and Ghali.

Afterward, 'Aziz will hold a third meeting with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, at the Iraqi ambassador's residence.

Paper Views 'Breakthrough' in Talks With UN

JN2911153893 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 29, INA—The English language daily 'THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER' today said there appears to be a significant breakthrough in the Iraq-UN stalemate over the mechanism sought by the international organisation to establish long-term monitoring of Iraq's armament.

The paper said that the reported breakthrough has obviously been made possible by Baghdad's agreement to UN demand in return for a commitment by the UN to reciprocate to Iraq's cooperation in a manner that meets the requirements of its people's basic needs, its security, interests and territorial integrity.

As the progress in the Iraq-UN talks elbowed its way on the pages of fine print news, some circles that have vested interests in a besieged and starved Iraq were quick to conjure up their old hackneyed but malicious tactics. In no time, there was talk about some very side and trivial issues as compared to the weight of the issue on which progress has been made.

Following more than three years of living under siege, Iraqis are fully entitled to expect something to alleviate their plight, something which must be rewarding. Iraqis have all the right to demand the legitimate rights of restoring their once envied standard of living in a dignified manner. It would be too inhuman and disheartening for the people of Iraq to hear suggestions that throw their legitimate expectations into the realm of speculations. Suggestions that a period of at least six months is needed to ascertain Iraq's sincerity about long-term armament monitoring amounts of something of psychological warfare on a nation of 18 million people who have faced the ups and downs of more than three years of perhaps the toughest political tug-of-war in the world's modern history.

The paper said Iraq has been walking a tightrope in its relation with the UN. For quite known reasons, the anti-Iraq alliance wants to undermine the country's sovereignty and achieve self interests under the cover of international legitimacy. Iraq has done its best to keep in step with the UN demand without abandoning its right to sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. It has left no stone unturned just to fend off any possible standoff with the UN. With this give-and-get-nothing process, Iraqis are showing an unprecedented self-restraint. Every pretext to keep the embargo clamped was envisaged to be the last straw to break the camel's back.

It concluded now that Iraq has met its obligations in accordance with Security Council Resolution 715, it is high time the UN gave something rewarding in return at least as a world body that essentially emerged as a peace broker not as an arena for settling old scores.

BABIL on Fulfilling UN Resolutions

JN3011114593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has affirmed that Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments in accordance with the Security Council resolutions has pulled the rug from under the feet of Clinton and Major.

In an article today, the paper says: Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments has shattered the feeble pretexts used by U.S. President Clinton and British Prime Minister Major.

BABIL adds: Iraq's patience and its balanced conduct, which stemmed from its own free will, as well as Iraq's political dealing with the Security Council resolutions have effectively influenced the aggressors' will and caused outright embarrassment for them.

The paper points out that no matter how hard the Western media exhaust themselves in their information and psychological warfare against enduring Iraq, the magnitude, channels, and inclinations of these media campaigns have been undoubtedly exposed by both the Iraqi people and the peace-loving world.

Concluding, BABIL says: Steadfast and patient Iraq is proceeding with its strong will and with the wisdom of its historic leadership on the path of self-reliance in terms of expanding the basis of industrial and agricultural production in order to demolish the embargo, which will not hold long against the Iraqis' jihad and bravery.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Denies Involvement in Hijack

NC2911132893 Paris AFP in English 1247 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Nov 29 (AFP)—A hijacked Iranian oil ministry plane with 38 people on board landed Monday in the southern Iraqi port city of al-Basrah, after it was turned away by Kuwait, Baghdad Radio said. [passage omitted]

Iran's main armed opposition group, the Mojahedin-e Khalq, denied responsibility.

"It's not the kind of action we carry out. This hijacking has nothing to do with the Mojahedin or the Iranian resistance," a Mojahedin spokesman in Paris told AFP. [passage omitted]

Iranian Hijacker Holds News Conference

JN3011120893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Nov (INA)—The hijacker of the Iranian plane has stated that he sought shelter in Iraq because he believed in the principled stands of the Iraqi leadership, in addition to the strength of the Iraqi position which calls for peace, contrary to the other states neighboring Iran.

The hijacker, whose name is 'Ali Reza Karimi, is 42 years old. He is a fire brigade officer at the Iranian Civil Defense Department and father of five children. He said he thought about hijacking an Iranian plane three years ago in order to get rid of the oppression to which his family was exposed by the Iranian regime, which accused them of belonging to the Iranian opposition simply because his community had always opposed the government's continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Speaking at a news conference in al-Basrah Governorate, which was attended by INA and local press correspondents, he said that the Iranian authorities executed his brother and his wife's brother, and that he and his family were arrested several times and expelled to Khark Island for two years. He said his daily movements were noted down on a special card every hour, and he was banned from entering important areas. Finally, he said, he was expelled to the city of Ahvaz after they seized his house, which belonged to the Iranian oil company.

Asked about his feelings after his arrival in Iraq, he said: My family and I feel comfortable, in good spirits, and energetic. I can speak freely. What is most important is that I managed to break out of the cage. I know that when I mention the name of President Saddam Husayn, I remember the messages his excellency sent to the Iranian people to end the war. They were true humanitarian calls to end the tragedy of two neighborly peoples. The name of the leader of Iraq is the best word to give me protection.

He said that he does not belong to any opposition political organization.

Discussing the Iranian regime's corruption, Karimi said: The regime's leaders bring together beggars and frauds from the neighboring Islamic states, tempt them with money, and bring them to Iran to participate in religious ceremonies and Friday prayers as Islamic masses which support the regime. Workers in the Iranian oil sector have asserted that the regime does not abide by the declared oil production quota, and exports large additional quantities to U.S. and British firms at their own expense.

Karimi pointed out that towns in the Ahvaz district still suffer the effects of war as a result of negligence, indifference, and failure to reconstruct them. Thus, their inhabitants have indulged in wrongful acts, ethical corruption, and psychological and spiritual degradation. He asserted that the Iranian regime does not want to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 because it wants to create crises with Iraq, and it fears the return of normal relations between the two countries. In general, the ordinary Iranian citizens are aware of this, he added.

Ramadan: 'Counteroffensive' Cracking Embargo

JN2811171393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has affirmed that Iraqis, under leader President Saddam Husayn, have continued their counteroffensive to defeat the embargo. They make cracks in this embargo every day. The enemies, led by the U.S. Administration, have deluded themselves into believing they will realize their aggressive and colonialist purposes, ambitions, and intentions.

During a meeting with (Lubimer Nikolov), head of a delegation of the Bulgarian Youth Association, Ramadan added: Many world states are suffering from economic collapse and security problems, because their governments are subservient to U.S. policy. He said the anti-Iraq embargo is seriously damaging many world states. These states have begun to make it plain that they are suffering serious economic crises because of the continuation of this embargo. These states have begun to demand an end to this embargo, especially since their interests have been harmed, not to mention the fact that the anti- Iraq policy of deception, terrorism, and fraud pursued by the Zionist-U.S.-Atlantic alliance has been exposed.

The vice president affirmed that the official and popular world awakening to the dangers posed by the colonialist U.S. policy will thwart the so-called new world order

launched by the United States to promote its own interests, ensure its domination of the peoples' resources, and rob them of their willpower, freedom, and independence, regardless of temptation, intimidation, and fraudulence. He indicated that the defiance of this policy by Iraqis through the all-out reconstruction drive in Iraq is the counteroffensive to the U.S.-Zionist aggression.

Taha Yasin Ramadan commended the tangibly concerted efforts made on the international scene by political parties as well as professional and popular organizations and associations to promote the peoples' interests, achieve peace, and express opposition to subservience and colonialism.

For his part, the head of the Bulgarian Youth Association delegation affirmed that Iraq has remained the destination of visits by delegations of parties, organizations, and associations from all over the world. This shows Baghdad has been and will always remain a revolutionary country committed to the principles of right, justice, freedom, independence, and sovereignty. This also confirms, he maintained, that Iraq has set an example for peoples who uphold principles and are willing to defy conspiracies and aggression. He noted that the victory scored by Iraqis under leader Saddam Husayn will promote the interests of mankind and its sublime principles.

Paper: 'Imperialist' States Behind Price Decline

JN2911174693 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 29, INA—An Iraqi newspaper said that the 30-state aggression on Iraq was a big oil plot designed by the Zionist and imperialist quarters using all their agents and satellites.

AL-QADISIYAH newspaper today reported that imperialist quarters endeavour for achieving a total collapse in the international oil markets leading to demolishing the economies of the oil exporting countries after succeeding to arrange for themselves a huge stored reserve of oil that could allow them to dominate the policies and prices of the oil producing countries and steering them in the manner that could serve their interests.

The paper said that Iraq had warned against such imperialist designs before the aggression and demanded a strong stand that could ensure the rights of the peoples whose rights are plundered by the influential powers.

The paper pointed out that this big plot was not only against Iraq but against the entire oil producing countries, the peoples of which strive for a free and prosperous life and developing their economies and their industrial infrastructure away from the blackmail of the big powers.

AL-QADISIYAH further said that throughout the chapters of the plots, the al-Sabah Family in Kuwait were employed by the imperialists as the major factor for plundering the wealth of Iraq and exhausting its capabilities after it had uncovered the dimensions of that plot and the people behind it.

The paper went on saying that the al-Sabah family were the first among those who resorted to increase oil production and flooding the international markets with surplus oil that is not needed by the consuming countries. Saudia and the United Arab Emirates took the same course and all that caused grave damage to other oil producing countries and placed their development plans under the mercy of the arrogant and oppressive policies of the imperialist quarters.

The Iraqi paper said that those who had taken part in that plot were themselves harmed by the trap they had set up pointing out that the first reaction to the recent OPEC meeting which had maintained the ceiling production was another decline [in] the oil prices. This decline represents an economic catastrophe to the oil producing countries especially those of the Gulf countries which suffer from the burdens of the unnecessary expensive arms deals.

The paper concluded by saying that the agents who had taken part in that plot would consequently be crushed by the will and struggle of the peoples.

Cabinet Debates Implementation of Saddam Directive

JN2811192093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular weekly session under Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir today.

The Council debated the implementation of the directives issued by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, when he chaired a special cabinet session on Thursday [25 November]. These directives called for according top priority in terms of allocations to activities that will expand the production base of the industrial and agricultural sectors as well as the services associated with their endeavors. Likewise, the leader president instructed that top priority be accorded efforts to promote education.

The council also discussed the topics on its agenda, including a Land Transport Company bill. The council made recommendations and decisions regarding some organizational and administrative issues.

Defense Minister Confers With Arab Ambassadors

JN3011083793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid received separately today Tunisian Ambassador

in Baghdad (Mohamed Burhan Ben Achour) and Algerian Ambassador in Baghdad (Tayeb Saadi). During the two meetings, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

Human Rights Group Documents 'Tragic Situation'

JN2911185493 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 29, INA—The National Assembly (Parliament) has lashed out at the smear media campaign launched by imperialist and Israeli circles against Iraq.

In an appeal to world parliaments, speaker of the National Assembly, Sa'di Mahdi Salih described the hostile media campaign launched by Western media as lies and allegations that lack evidence.

Mr Salih affirmed Iraq's keenness to provide and ensure all means that help guarantee protection and security to its people in accordance with its internal rules and international commitments and in a way that ensures the rights of people, whether they are civil, political or economic rights.

He held parties which supported the fabricated row and campaign the responsibility of the continuation of the imposition of the economic blockade on Iraq.

Mr Salih urged parliaments the world over to condemn such attempts and work seriously and swiftly for lifting the sanctions clamped on Iraq.

In the meantime, Human Rights Committee of the National Assembly has recently laid down a plan to protect and observe human rights in the light of the Constitution, valid legislations and international accords and agreements approved by Iraq.

Head of the committee, Ni'mah Hassun said the plan aims at boosting cooperation and maintaining links with committees concerned in the world.

The plan, moreover, aims at shedding light on the plight and sufferings of the Iraqi people as a result of the imposition of the trade sanctions and exposing facts supported by statistics on the violations of basic rights of Iraqi people, said Mr Hassun.

He added that the committee is currently preparing evidence that depicts the tragic situation of the Iraqi people under current circumstances to be presented as documents in the international conferences and gatherings, noting that the committee will also prepare photographs, films and documents that depict the suffering of Iraqis and the huge damage inflicted on Iraq's infrastructure because of the U.S.-led aggression in 1991.

Kurdish 'Government' Threatens PKK on Attacks

PM2911112293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 93 p 4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "After Accusing It of Killing and Capturing Peshmerga Elements, Local Kurdish Authorities in North Iraq Threaten To Respond to Kurdish Workers' Party"]

[Text] London—The Kurdish "local government" in north Iraq has threatened to respond strongly to what it termed "armed attacks" by the Turkish Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK] on Peshmerga positions inside Iraqi Kurdistan.

A statement issued by the "Kurdistan regional government"—not recognized internationally—of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received a copy yesterday says that a force comprising some 100 PKK elements last week attacked positions belonging to Iraqi Kurdish fighters, "Peshmerga," in Basya [as transliterated] village in the Barkush area on the Iraqi-Turkish border, "killing three and capturing 12."

The statement added that the "regional government condemns this attack and considers it blatant interference in its affairs." It demanded that this action not be repeated, that those captured be released immediately, and that those who carried out the attack be brought to trial, "otherwise we will be forced to respond to these attacks."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the position attacked belongs to the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], led by Mas'ud Barzani. The party and the "Kurdistan regional government" accused the Turkish Kurdish party of attacking a number of Peshmerga positions in Kurdistan last month, killing and wounding scores of Peshmerga fighters and civilians.

An official from the DPK's office in London has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the continuation of the PKK gunmen's attacks on Kurdish-Iraqi positions "are aimed at undermining stability in Iraqi Kurdistan, thwarting the local government experiment and preventing peasants from returning to the border areas from which they were evacuated by the Iraqi Government in the seventies and eighties, so that the PKK can use these areas as bases from which to launch its attacks against Turkey."

The "Kurdistan regional government" last month banned any military or political PKK presence in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Meanwhile, an official from the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan has denied that the movement has any special links with the PKK or relations of allegiance with Iran. The movement's representative in Britain told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the movement "rejects Turkey's appeal to it to fight the PKK. But it does not provide any support for the party, nor does it interfere in other states' affairs." He added that the

"movement is not loyal, nor does it belong, to Iran. Like the other Kurdish parties and Iraqi opposition movements, it has received aid from Iran."

He added that the movement "relies on its own capabilities." He pointed out that the movement has over the past months resisted Iranian military attacks inside Iraqi Kurdistan.

Kurdish-Iraqi sources have accused the movement—in light of an armed conflict which occurred last month between some of its elements and elements from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani—of loyalty to Iran.

PUK, Communist Party Discuss Ties, Situation

NC2911210993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Secretary General Brother Jalal Talabani yesterday at noon received 'Umar Manashaykh, secretary of the Iraqi Kurdistan Communist Party, and Karim Ahmad, Kamal Satir, and Mulla Hasan, members of the Kurdistani Communist Party Political Bureau. They were also welcomed by Saydun 'Abd-al-Qadir and Jabbar Farman, members of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Political Bureau.

The two political bureaus held a joint meeting in which they discussed bilateral relations and ways to strengthen these relations. They also discussed relations among the members of the Kurdistani Front and ways to strengthen them, and reviewed the gains achieved by the Kurdistani people and ways to safeguard them. The meeting lasted about four hours.

Opposition Forces Attack Officials in Al-Samawah

NC2811180293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq has issued a statement in which it says that the Iraqi opposition forces recently staged a series of attacks that targeted officials of the Iraqi regime.

The statement says that the Iraqi opposition forces attacked the headquarters in al-Samawah city of Governor Muhsin Sufayyir al-Safaji. The opposition forces used rocket launchers and hand grenades in the attack, which resulted in the destruction of four vehicles, including the governor's car, and the death of all their passengers. The statement added that the son of the governor, who held a senior position in the al-Samawah security department, was among those killed.

The statement goes on to say that the Iraqi regime declared a state of alert among its forces in al-Samawah province following the attack. It also carried out sweeping arrests among the citizens of [word indistinct] town.

SAIRI Source on Measures To End Rights Abuse

NC2711085893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] A responsible media source in the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has commented on recent statements released by the UN on human rights in Iraq. The source said: The repeated and regular human rights abuses in Iraq and the mass annihilation of the inhabitants of the marshes in southern Iraq at the hands of the Iraqi regime constitute a flagrant violation of international laws and charters and a clear breach of UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 687 and 688. These resolutions emphasize that terrorism is the main pillar and doctrine of the regime in Baghdad.

The source added: The Iraqi regime's violations of human rights, international laws, charters, and norms, and UN resolutions have been repeatedly highlighted in several countries' official statements and positions. The reports by (Macvander Shtoel), the special human rights commissioner in Iraq, indicate the Saddam regime's continuing acts of oppression against the Iraqi people, especially in the marshes. The commissioner's latest statement, in which he noted that the Iraqi regime cannot remain in power without relying on acts of oppression and terrorism, is unique. In his report, he urged the international community to enforce the implementation of Resolution 688.

The source added: Saddam's regime, which has been killing people in Iraq since it assumed power and has launched two destructive wars in the region, is likely to start a new war once his problems with the international community and with the Iraqi people in the north and south are over. Signs of this war could be detected in the statements made by regime officials and official press reports regarding the sisterly State of Kuwait, something that could place the region and the entire world again in trouble, jeopardizing peace, security, and stability. The source noted the regime's use of internationally banned weapons of mass destruction in the marshes and the regime's rejection of all attempts by human rights organizations to inspect its terrifying prisons, where mass murders and executions take place without proper trial.

The SAIRI source urged the international community and humanitarian organizations to treat these issues seriously, to adopt practical and deterrent measures to end the bloody cycle of terrorism in Iraq, and to establish permanent observation centers in the marshes to monitor and prevent acts of oppression against civilians. The source also called on the international community, the United Nations, the Security Council, and all humanitarian organizations to show solidarity with the oppressed Iraqi people and condemn the Saddam regime's repeated human rights abuses in Iraq.

SAIRI Reports Promotion of Party Members

LD2811185293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1603 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, 28 Nov—A statement issued by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq said here today that the head of the Iraqi regime [Saddam Husayn] had issued a decree at the beginning of this month, on the basis of which he had granted the rank of captain in the security apparatus to all of the ruling party members at the level of organization member and above.

The statement pointed out that each one of those who had been granted the rank of a security officer had been given responsibility for controlling between 20-30 families, depending on the population density in the partisans' areas.

The statement said that all those to whom the decree applied were required to write a monthly report on the families that were in the domain of their responsibility, and they had the right to interrogate and question the head of a family whenever they wished.

The council's statement cited sources inside Iraq as saying that the decree had been communicated secretly to the branches and sub-branches of the ruling party in all the Iraqi provinces. It added that details, including instructions and orders regarding implementation, had been appended to the decree and signed by the director of the presidential office.

Syrian Opposition Front Condemns Embargo

JN2811190993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] The National Front for the Salvation of Syria has condemned the measures taken by colonialist powers, Zionism, and their allies ahead of each and every Security Council session that reviewed the sanctions clamped on the proud Iraqi people.

A statement issued by the front added: From the outset, these quarters have made a habit of fabricating stories and launching biased campaigns to undermine the standing of heroic and mujahid Iraq under various excuses and pretexts in violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to justify their renewal of the unfair embargo.

The statement noted the new fabrications promoted by imperialist and Zionist quarters regarding the alleged use by Iraq of chemical weapons in the marshlands, saying that an investigation conducted by a specialized committee of the Security Council concluded that these fabrications are unfounded.

The statement issued by the National Front for the Salvation of Syria added: These fabrications and falsehoods cannot obliterate from the memories of peoples and history that it was the United States that attacked the Japanese people and cities with atomic bombs, that it was the United States that attacked the Vietnamese people with all kinds of internationally banned weapons, and that it was the United States that invaded Panama, Grenada, and Somalia. It was also the United States that bombarded Libya and laid siege to it, just as it bombarded Baghdad with missiles, the statement maintained.

The statement appealed to all political and humanitarian organizations, parties, and figures to firmly support the steadfast Iraqi people, and to bring pressure to bear on Arab and Islamic governments to make them start an immediate effort to dispatch to Iraq the medicines and food supplies that it needs.

Baghdad Telephone Lines Return to Service

JN2811171893 Baghdad INA in English 1426 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 28, INA—Telephone lines in six Baghdad quarters will be restored soon after repairing major telephone exchange in Baghdad. Tamuz 14 (July 14) telephone exchange has been repaired and commissioned last week by Iraqi technicians.

The 20,000 lines capacity telephone exchange was destroyed by the U.S. and its allies bombardment on February 22, 1991, during the U.S.-led war against Iraq. The telephone exchange which is Japanese made was installed in 1977 with a total capacity of 17,000 telephone lines. In 1980 it was expanded to 20,000 lines.

The repair work is completely done by Iraqi technicians who were able to expand its capacity of 27,000 lines. Repair work in the telephone exchange has been completed in 60 days only. The total cost of the repair work is 350,000 Iraqi dinars.

Director General of Tele-Communications and Posts Department Engineer Ghassan 'Abd-al-Razzaq told the Iraqi News Agency that his technicians have started repairing Bab al-Mu'azzam telephone exchange relying on Iraqi know-how. Spare parts for the destroyed telephone exchange will be manufactured locally. Bab al-Mu'azzam telephone exchange was destroyed completely by U.S. and its allies warplanes in 1991.

Rabin 'Expects' PLO Aid on MIA Information

TA3011063993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has ordered the Army to restore calm to the Gaza Strip and concentrate only on searches for fugitives acting against Israel. The prime minister spoke to reporters on an Air Force plane flying him to France, the first leg of a European trip which will also take him to Belgium, Italy, Germany, and England.

The prime minister disclosed that the PLO has the military identification tag of Zekharya Baumel, one of the three Israeli soldiers who went missing in the al-Sultan Yaqub battle in 1982. Rabin said he expects the PLO to provide Israel with information on other missing soldiers and prisoners of war in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners, but he said this was not conditional. He said Israel had proposed a gradual release of prisoners, but the Palestinians had rejected this.

On the dispute over border checkpoints following Palestinian autonomy, Rabin said the Palestinians could not expect to control all crossovers, with about 250,000 refugees expected to return. He said Israel would not compromise on the issue of security.

These issues also came up when Rabin appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Speaking to reporters outside the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee room, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made the link between the Palestinians held by Israel and the Israelis who went missing in Lebanon during the 1980's.

[Rabin] We will release prisoners, but we also expect to get information from the PLO on the fate of the MIA's from the battle in al-Sultan Yaqub—Baumel, Katz, Feldman—and, hopefully, information about the other MIA's and POW's.

[Ze'ev] According to a Knesset official who attended the closed-door committee meeting, Rabin said the Palestinian demands on the size of the Jericho area are out of all proportion and, the premier said, he had no intention of acceding to the demands.

Of the differences that separate the two sides, Rabin said the security issue is the main stumbling block, and on security he said: I will not back down. He said Israel is demanding control of the air, sea, and border crossings, but he said Palestinian officials will be able to fly between Jericho and the Gaza Strip without disrupting the balance of forces.

Prime Minister Rabin also said that the matter of arming the Palestinian police force and just how large it will be has not yet been dealt with, but, he said: If we expect them to deal with terrorism as we do, they will have to be armed with rifles. And while the prime minister said Israel is sticking to its right of hot pursuit of gunmen who attack in Israel and escape into the autonomy areas, it would be expected that the Palestinians themselves would be responsible for capturing anyone in those areas who is planning some kind of attack before the attack is carried out. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 30 November carries a related report by political correspondent Udi Segal, accompanying Prime Minister Rabin on his European tour, who adds that Rabin said that prisoners who murdered or injured Jews "will be the last to be dealt with. The prime minister indicated that the release of all 9,000 prisoners will continue beyond 13 April, the date on which the agreement implementation is to be completed. Rabin reiterated: I do not want to release prisoners from the Rejectionist Front.

["Rabin voiced concern about the incident in which Shimshon undercover unit soldiers shot and killed the Gaza Strip Fatah Hawks commander who had surrendered himself to the authorities only two days earlier. Rabin admitted: We have gotten ourselves into a jam in Gaza. He noted that contacts with PLO-Tunis are being held in a bid to try to resolve the problem, which is placing Israel in an embarrassing situation.

["As for the settlers, Rabin revealed that video cameras have been set up here and there throughout the area to serve the special police force tasked with gathering evidence against rioters.

["The information Rabin received about the Syrian track does not herald progress at this point. Several foreign ministers who visited Damascus returned very disappointed, the prime minister related"]

Rabin Note to 'Arafat Accepts 'Several' Demands

TA3011113193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Nov 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by Nehama Dowek and Smadar Peri]

[Excerpt] Israel is prepared to accede to several demands raised by the PLO in order to complete the negotiations by the 13 December target date.

Yasir 'Arafat yesterday told a news conference in Copenhagen that he had received a message from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It has been learned that, in his message, Rabin details what demands Israel will be prepared to accept on condition that the PLO negotiates in a businesslike and serious manner and refrains from making empty pronouncements.

Rabin is prepared to promise the PLO that it can have observers on the Jordan River bridges, as well as on the main roads, and that the police forces of both sides will cooperate.

Rabin also agrees, contrary to the position of some of his close aides, that Israel will accept the PLO's external symbols of government, such as a flag, national anthem,

and uniforms. Opponents of this stand say that if the PLO is permitted to have such symbols of government, nothing will be left to discuss after the interim period except the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Rabin wrote to 'Arafat that he will be prepared to permit Palestinians to build a small airport—some say only a small helicopter landing strip—in Jericho and Gaza, which would permit traffic of light aircraft between both parts of the autonomy; the autonomy will be permitted to set up a Palestinian bank alongside Jordanian and Egyptian banks; and it might be allowed to print its own currency which, together with the shekel and the Jordanian dinar, might become legal tender in the Palestinian autonomy, but this has not been finalized.

It has been learned that Rabin agrees to permit the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Gaza to be slightly more extensive—by several kilometers, but to be decided by the defense establishment—than originally agreed. On the other hand, Rabin will not be prepared to uproot settlements, including Netzarim, which has only four families.

"Even if the settlers agree to be uprooted, the IDF will continue to maintain an outpost there, because otherwise we will no longer be able to say that we are opposed to uprooting settlements," a senior source in Jerusalem said last night.

The prime minister has not decided, however, on the size of the Jericho autonomy area. It seems that in the end, the decision will come down to one of two choices: the larger area demanded by the PLO or Israel's minimalist proposal. Rabin also told 'Arafat that he is ready to meet with him in order to conclude the negotiations.

Our correspondent Smadar Peri reports that Israel is demanding a thorough inquiry into information relayed by Nizar 'Ammar, a member of the Palestinian delegation, that navigator Ron Arad is being held in Syria. Israel is also demanding information on the three MIA's from al-Sultan Ya'qub. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 30 November in a report by Hagay Huberman on pages 1 and 2 adds: "Israel has informed the Palestinians that it agrees to Palestinian police forces moving freely inside the Mawasi [name as transliterated], the Palestinian agricultural lands along the coastline in the northern Qatif Bloc, contrary to its position up to now that the entire Qatif Bloc would be outside the autonomy's boundaries."]

Rabin Statement Denies Message

TA3011120693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] The prime minister's bureau has issued the following press communique: A statement issued by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Paris a short while ago says that the prime minister has not sent any message, either oral or written, to 'Arafat. Therefore, all of the alleged contents of the message as reported in today's press are baseless and unfounded.

Official Accuses U.S. of Observing Arab Boycott

TA3011125593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Nov 93 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The United States has prevented an Israeli firm from participating in a tender to manufacture transporters for Patriot missiles because the missile systems were ordered by Saudi Arabia. In reaction, Major General (reserves) David 'Ivri, the Defense Ministry director general, sent a letter to the Pentagon expressing his amazement at the move. 'Ivri wrote that removing the Israeli firm from the list of companies permitted to participate in the international tender constitutes indirect participation in the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

The Israeli firm involved is Ordan, and immediately after it presented its offer, based on the tender's specifications, the United States announced that it was removing Israel from the list of countries permitted to participate. Defense sources said that Israel has dealt with the constraints imposed on it as a result of the Arab boycott for years, but that the U.S. move is surprising because it comes at a critical stage of the peace negotiations and at a time when the influence of the boycott is weakening in many fields. [passage omitted]

Minister To Ask Reno To Free Pollard

TA2811200893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Nov 93 p 2

[Report by Hayim Shibi in Washington and Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] This week Justice Minister David Liba'i will raise in his Washington talks with Attorney General Janet Reno a request to release Jonathan Pollard or to give him a fixed sentence.

Reno's recommendation, following her meeting with Liba'i on Tuesday, will be presented to President Clinton and will in fact determine Pollard's fate. If Liba'i succeeds in convincing Reno, who is considered tough, then Pollard has a chance of being transferred soon from the federal prison in Butner, North Carolina. U.S. security officials are firmly opposed to any easing of Pollard's sentence.

Another issue to be raised in the talks: prison conditions for Israelis extradited to the United States, in the wake of the extradition of the Manning couple. Liba'i will ask Reno for guarantees that anybody extradited from Israel to prison in the United States will be offered kosher food. Such a promise will help Liba'i overcome appeals to the High Court, which are mainly based on attempts to prevent extradition due to U.S. prison conditions.

For her part, Reno will raise the repeated U.S. request to interrogate all those involved in the Dotan affair. The demand for a wide-ranging investigation into the affair is brought up regularly in Congress, and Israel is charged with putting up obstacles in the bids to interrogate Dotan and others involved in the affair, such as Attorney Harold Katz.

Deputy Attorney General Mark Richards will arrive in Israel in early December to meet with State's Attorney Dorit Beinisch to finalize the legal aspects of the Dotan affair. It is believed that Richards will not ask to meet with Dotan since the latter refused to see a U.S. team of investigators which came here to question him a year ago.

Ties With DPRK Seen Necessary To Offset Iran

TA2811150493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Nov 93 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "In the Interest of Defense"]

[Excerpts] Last Tuesday, White House and visiting South Korean reporters had a long wait for Bill Clinton and Kim Yong-sam of South Korea. The next day, THE WASHINGTON POST reported that the two statesmen had difficulty agreeing on the formulation of a new policy toward North Korea. Clinton wanted to discuss a "comprehensive" approach. President Kim, however, did not like this formulation. Despite its dependence on the United States, South Korea does not want to follow in the great superpower's footsteps in matters pertaining to its own security. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question about the impact of the U.S. reassessing its North Korea policy vis-a-vis the deep-frozen Jerusalem-Pyongyang dialogue, Yitzhaq Rabin said: The United States leads the way in this sphere. He trusts them to be able to do the right thing. Thus in Rabin's opinion, Israel can do nothing except wait patiently and abstain from interfering in grown-up affairs. Having asked the President to ensure that any deal or sanction against North Korea included the supply of Nodong missiles to Iran, Rabin felt he had discharged his duty.

No one disputes the evaluation that North Korea can become a nuclear superpower by the 21st century. It reminds one of the Soviet Union, which reached outer space but was unable to feed its population or provide them with modern transportation. In the absence of an alternative, the North Koreans use the atom to export fear, acting on the premise that they can trade it for economic aid and political recognition that will eliminate the military threat. A year ago Israel explored that market in the belief that it would be able to offer an economic-political package deal capable of offsetting an emerging DPRK-Iran missile deal. At that stage, Eytan Bentzur, the Foreign Ministry assistant director general who was in charge of contacts with Pyongyang, convinced Shim'on Peres that the peril of Israel's falling within the range of the Khomeyni regime's missiles warranted unorthodox efforts. Just as in Washington, where the trend encountered opposition from the defense establishment, Jerusalem defense circles convinced the political echelons that North Korea was toying with Israel. Although the contacts had been coordinated with the Americans, an intimation of disapproval from that direction sufficed for Rabin and Peres to order a series of meetings with the North Korean leadership cut short.

Ties with dubious countries have been known to complicate Israel's relationship with the United States. Last week, however, President Clinton himself bestowed legitimacy on deals with the North Korean Government. Had Rabin adhered to the U.S. Administration's conditions and pace, he would have been waiting for a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat to this very day. Israel has a supreme interest in a dialogue with the DPRK. It should naturally coordinate its moves with the United States, Japan, and South Korea, but it cannot afford to impassively look on the danger of Iran's acquiring 1,300-km-range missiles in 1996—more than it could procure in 1981, when Iraq was close to nuclear capability. These days, as Washington contemplates its helplessness in conjunction with the danger that the North Korean president will soon step down in favor of his more radical son, it often feels nostalgic for Israel's audacious bombing of the Osiraq reactor in 1981.

Rabin, Baraq Meet Portuguese Defense Minister

TA2611124793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Portuguese Defense Minister Fernando Nogueira was received by Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, and Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq in an official ceremony at the Defense Ministry this morning. The three later met at the defense minister's office in Tel Aviv, where they discussed bilateral relations and the peace process. Our correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda reports:

[Begin Ben-Yehuda recording] Hardly a week goes by without any defense ministers or chiefs of staff arriving in Israel on visits from various places in the world. Today was Portuguese Defense Minister Fernando Nogueira's turn. Following an official ceremony, the guest met with Yitzhaq Rabin and Ehud Baraq at the defense minister's office.

Prime Minister Rabin said he is satisfied with the cooperation between Israel and Portugal and with the state of bilateral relations. Rabin briefed the visiting minister on the Middle East political process, the talks with the PLO, and the threats facing Israel, especially those emanating from the missile race in the Middle East. In this context, he stressed the long-range missiles being purchased by Syria and Iran.

The prime minister briefed the Portuguese minister on Israeli-Syrian relations, about which the guest evinced special interest, and reiterated Israel's position—

namely, that no agreement will be signed with Syria until it clarifies the substance of the peace it is willing to implement.

Yitzhaq Rabin accepted Nogueira's invitation to visit Portugal. The guest is scheduled to visit the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and various military industries. [end recording]

Knesset Defeats 3 No-Confidence Motions 29 Nov

TA2911183893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 29 Nov 93

[Text] The Knesset this evening rejected three motions of no confidence in the government which were presented by the Likud and other opposition parties. The government survived by the margin of 33 in favor of the motions, 48 opposed, with three abstentions.

Military Service for Men To Be Shortened

TA2811160193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Compulsory military service for men will gradually be shortened by four months starting with the February 1993 draftees. The chief of staff made this announcement at today's cabinet meeting. With Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq's recommendation, 80 percent of male soldiers drafted in February 1993 will be released in October 1995. In 1997, all males serving in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will have their terms cut by four months.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the chief of staff has thereby adopted the recommendations of the Herzl Shafir committee set up after Minister Amnon Rubinstein announced that he would appeal to the High Court if military service is not reduced. The recommendation still requires cabinet approval. It was reported several days ago that compulsory service for women has been cut by another month and is now 21 months.

Police Minister on Settlement Security Plans

TA3011115993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal takes a serious view of the decision of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to establish a volunteer organization, named Hashomer, to guard the settlements. Touring the Jordan Rift Valley this morning, the minister said it is the government's duty to safeguard the security of the residents, and it will do so without private organizations. The council announced it plans to recruit hundreds of volunteers to guard the settlements, and it may extend its operation to the roads.

The Tzomet party has announced that it, too, is establishing a volunteer center to help safeguard the security of the settlements and that the first group of volunteers arrived in Elon More this morning.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that in the course of his Jordan Valley visit, Minister Shahal said he had advised the prime minister to maintain contiguity of Jewish settlements in the area under Israeli sovereignty. The Arab villages in the Jordan Rift Valley will become autonomous enclaves within the Israeli contiguity.

Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav has called on the Israel Police to refrain from acting against the private police forces set up by the Jewish settlers in the territories, by Tzomet, and by Kakh. Speaking to our correspondent this morning, Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav said these are natural self-defense initiatives with which the Israel Police can cooperate.

Activist: 50 Percent of Settlements Hoard Arms

TA2911122593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Nov 93 p A3

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] Yo'el Lerner, one of the initiators of the "Jewish Autonomy Authority in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza" (a body that extreme right-wing activists are trying to found in anticipation of the implementation of the agreement with the PLO), said in an interview with HA'ARETZ that, in his opinion, "individuals or groups have been hoarding weapons in over 50 percent of the Jewish settlements in the territories."

"I do not know what large-scale means," Lerner said in reply to a question, "but I have definitely heard rumors more than once about such a trend. People realize that they will be abandoned, that within a few months the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will no longer be in the field, and they do not intend to be totally defenseless."

[Shragay] What exactly have you heard?

[Lerner] That in certain settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, people anticipated the events and began hoarding arms.

[Shragay] What type of settlements?

[Lerner] Not necessarily Qiryat Arba' or Kfar Tapuah. People in other, less known settlements also want to live.

[Shragay] Religious or secular settlements?

[Lerner] All the settlements I visited in the last six months, except one, have been religious ones.

[Shragay] Does the phenomenon exist in every settlement you visited?

[Lerner] Not necessarily.

[Shragay] In what percentage of them?

[Lerner] Based on what I heard, I would say that in over 50 percent of them.

[Shragay] How do you collect this information? Does every settlement report to you on whether it is hoarding arms?

[Lerner] I do not ask any questions. I go to the settlements to promote the idea of Jewish autonomy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. After listening to me, getting over the initial shock, and realizing that accepting my idea entails separating from the State of Israel, they start asking me pertinent questions about security issues, among other things. From the type of questions they ask me, I gather that some people predicted what would happen and acted accordingly, even before I got to them.

[Shragay] What do you and your colleague Barukh Ben-Yosef suggest to the settlers?

[Lerner] Wherever we go, we suggest that they already take responsibility for themselves now.

[Shragay] In what areas?

[Lerner] Health, education, transportation. When they ask me "what about security," I am forced to agree with them that one day they will also have to handle this matter themselves.

[Shragay] One day?

[Lerner] All signs indicate that this day is approaching.

[Shragay] Approaching?

[Lerner] By 13 April, they will definitely have to handle security themselves. We already hear numerous reports that settlements are actually being abandoned. For example, I know that Teqoa' was in fact under Arab siege about two weeks ago. The settlers approached the IDF several times, but there were no soldiers to be seen in the field. That situation went on for four days, until the Arabs themselves left the site. These are things that do not get to the media and are not publicized.

[Shragay] Does it make sense to you that arms are being stolen from the IDF on a large scale?

[Lerner] I think that in most cases, people rely on the weapons they already own.

[Shragay] But certain reports have been confirmed, such as the case of members of the Jewish underground who dismantled land mine detonators to assemble explosive charges.

[Lerner] People may be using those methods, too.

[Shragay] And what about arms being smuggled into Israel from former Czechoslovakia and Russia? Does that make sense to you?

[Lerner] It sounds to me like an episode from the history of 1947 and 1948, when weapons were brought to Israel from those countries. Today, in my opinion, the United States is a more accessible source than the countries you mentioned.

[Shragay] Should we expect more arrests such as that of Avraham Toledano?

[Lerner] I do not know. In any event, the Israeli Government should have taken into account that such a development would occur at some stage when it announced the inexplicable agreement with a terrorist organization. It is only natural. People wake up at some point, and the result of this awakening is to get ready—even if this is done only by individuals—to repel the danger. I am very surprised that people are surprised.

Rothschild on Conflicts Among Palestinians

TA2811122293 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Nov 93 p 7

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] Fatah will be defeated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] at the Gaza Islamic University elections, scheduled to be held next Tuesday. This is the assessment of Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories.

In the previous elections, Fatah defeated the Islamic groups. Political sources yesterday said that a Fatah defeat in Tuesday's elections could severely harm the PLO leadership's morale. At last Monday's cabinet session, Maj. Gen. Rothschild correctly predicted Fatah's defeat in the Bi'r Zayt University elections.

During today's cabinet session Maj. Gen. Rothschild will present a bleak view of the situation of the PLO leadership in the territories, and will express apprehension regarding the possibility of a bloodbath and assassinations of leaders in anticipation of self-government and thereafter. Rothschild said: "Whoever trys to take command and organize things will be hit."

In recent closed discussions, the coordinator of activities warned that "unless 'Arafat gets his act together, he will find it hard to shoulder the responsibility." According to Rothschild the main problem in the PLO is the severe internal conflicts within Fatah. Everyone wants a piece of the leadership cake. PLO-Tunis is helpless against the violent conflict between the youngsters and the veterans in the organization. The youngsters, who were imprisoned and who authored the intifadah, claim that the agreement with Israel was achieved thanks to them. They claim that the Tunis veterans are trying to take over all the senior positions in the self-government.

Baraq: IDF Prepared for Redeployment 13 Dec

TA3011144393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq says that if by 13 December an agreement with the Palestinians is signed, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be prepared to start its redeployment in Gaza and Jericho. Lieutenant General Baraq assesses that the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will try to step up their

activity outside Gaza and Jericho as well, adding that the IDF will continue to fight them in every possible way. Baraq said Israel expects the Fatah Hawks to obey 'Arafat's orders, but whoever tries to attack us will not remain invulnerable.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the chief of staff said the investigation into the circumstances of Ahmad Abu-Rish's death in the Gaza Strip is continuing. Abu-Rish was a Fatah Hawk who laid down his weapons two weeks ago. The chief of staff explained that a Shimshon undercover unit came under crossfire from the direction of terrorists suspected of murdering Nisim Megidish, adding it is not clear what Abu-Rish did in the place. Many cartridges belonging both to IDF soldiers and the terrorists were found in the area, and since the body was snatched it is impossible to determine whose bullets hit him.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 30 November adds: "Referring to the riots in Gaza, the chief of staff said they constitute a spontaneous and predictable reaction to the security forces' successes in apprehending wanted terrorists."]

Fatah Hawks Gaza Chief Captured; Strike Announced

TA2911190793 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] This just in from the newsroom: This evening, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] captured the commander of the Fatah Hawks in the Gaza Strip. He was captured during an IDF pursuit after Fatah Hawks activists in the Rafah refugee camp. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that the two sides exchanged fire.

In response of the events of the past few days, Fatah announced a 3-day general strike, with the rejectionist organizations joining the call.

Three Border Policemen Injured in Gaza

TA3011072793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Three wanted men, including the leader of the Gaza Strip Fatah Hawks squad, Taysir Burdaynah, were captured in Rafah last night. The other captured men are Salim Wafa'i, the deputy commander, and Khalid Tawfish, a fugitive. Three border policemen were slightly injured in the security forces operation in Rafah. Our correspondent notes that the Gaza Strip Fatah Hawks commander is suspected of having murdered Yehoshu'a Weissbrod a few months ago.

Three incidents in which firearms were used took place in Gaza and Khan Yunus last night. No one was injured.

Security sources have said that the existence of fugitives who have not surrendered themselves to the authorities is not accidental, as these are terrorists with blood on their hands. The security sources told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that no undue importance should be attributed to the Fatah Hawks' announcing resumption of its activities against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. These are isolated terrorists, and the struggle against them will continue without any connection with the political talks.

Our correspondent adds that the security forces have been put on high alert in the wake of information about planned terrorist attacks. The IDF is continuing its preparations for withdrawal, and infrastructure in locations to which the forces will be moved is being readied.

'At Least' 30 Wounded in Gaza Disturbances

TA3011112593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] At least 30 people have been injured in the Gaza Strip since this morning: 15 in the Khan Yunus area, and the rest in the Gaza city area and in the Jabalyah refugee camp. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that troops came under fire in the course of disturbances in Khan Yunus. No one was hurt. The troops returned fire, wounding several residents.

An explosive device was hurled at a Border Police base in Rafah. The device exploded, but no one was hurt. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in Gaza. No one was injured and no damage was caused.

Our correspondent notes that disturbances and rioting are under way in at least six locations in the Gaza Strip: in the southern Strip and in Gaza city and the adjacent refugee camps.

HADASHOT Daily To Shut Down 30 Nov

TA2911090993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The HADASHOT daily newspaper is being closed and will no longer be published as of tomorrow. The newspaper's publisher, 'Amos Schocken, recently decided to close the daily and will formally announce its closure at a meeting with the newspaper's 400 employees at Tel Aviv's Dan Panorama hotel.

HADASHOT, which was launched approximately 10 years ago, was never profitable and had accumulated heavy losses over the years. This was reported by our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich.

King Hosts Luncheon for Senate, House Members

JN2911175193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has expressed his satisfaction with what has been achieved throughout Jordan's democratic march, describing the march as a blessed tree that grows and yields its fruits and promises us a brilliant future, with God's help and through our ability to overcome all the challenges and difficulties this critical and difficult stage of the nation's history is witnessing.

His majesty said: This march is a result of everyone's participation and the responsibility everyone has shouldered with clear vision and with determination to carry out his full duty toward our homeland and our future generations. His majesty added: We, in this part of the large Arab homeland—a part which is the land of al-muhajirin and al-ansar [respectively, early Mecca and Medina Muslims] and the land of the free Jordanians—have faith in our capabilities and in our determination to make this country, with God's help, an example for the large homeland and the world at large, as well as a torch of good, help, and right throughout the world.

His majesty praised the response from the kinsfolk—the sons of the large Jordanian family—to his appeal not to disappoint him, themselves, and their nation, describing it as one in which we take pride and which strengthens confidence that our goals will certainly be achieved through everyone's awareness, honesty, and goodness and by preferring the higher national interests over all other interests and considerations.

His majesty's statements came during his meeting with the Senate president and members and the House of Representatives speaker and members. His majesty congratulated the House of Representatives members on winning the great confidence of the citizens, urging the legislative, the judiciary, and executive authorities to cooperate in faith and full confidence and apart from selfishness and the repetition of some negative aspects and the picture of the previous stage. He also stressed that public interest should be both an incentive and a goal for us in all the work we do and that working with awareness and honesty to build what can face tempests will be essential to a country that deserves decent life for what it has borne and given in a sense of responsibility, determination, and manhood.

His majesty added: As long as I live, I will take pride in my being a Hashemite, a Muslim, and an Arab from this dear country, which we hope will be a torch of goodness and hope throughout the world and also be a helping hand to overcome difficulties and challenges in order to reach our goals through determination and cooperation in piety and righteousness. He stressed the need for continued meetings between himself and the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives so that they can be in the picture of what is going on and so that everyone can shoulder his great responsibilities.

His Majesty King Husayn held a lunch in Raghadan Palace in honor of the Senate president and members and the House of Representatives speaker and members. The banquet was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Hashemite Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, his majesty's advisers, and his majesty's military secretary His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad.

Senate Replies to 23 Nov Speech

JN2911154793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 93

["Text" of the Senate reply to King Husayn's 23 November speech from the throne, read by Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi at the Royal Court on 29 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

God's prayers and peace be upon the honest Arab Hashemite prophet.

Your Hashemite Majesty King Husayn, may God support and watch over you.

The Senate is pleased to extend to your majesty its sincerest thanks and appreciation for opening the first session of the 12th Jordanian Senate and for your speech from the throne, which included noble principles, the firm bases of the government's policy and philosophy in our dear Jordan, clear-cut noble concepts that govern society's texture and the relations among individuals, and an eagerness to protect our national unity under the canopy of our democratic march—a unity that pools the ranks and strengthens brotherly ties within the framework of political pluralism, the rules of which your majesty has laid down. The speech also clarifies that our political life is based on the Constitution, the law, and the National Charter. All this shows respect for human rights, freedom, and dignity.

On this honorable occasion, the Senate is also pleased to extend to your majesty our sincerest congratulations on the large strides and achievements the democratic march in our country has made, thanks to your care and your determination to hold parliamentary elections on the constitutional date, despite the widespread changes and accelerating developments in our region and the world around us. This stresses our commitment to our national, genuine policy and deepens the participation of the various political and social factions in building the homeland's institutions, as well as in decisionmaking.

Free and fair elections were held after the election law was amended in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Constitution and with the National Charter. The elections have resulted in a House of Representatives that has won further appreciation for our homeland, has reinforced the brilliant picture of our Jordan and its

honest Hashemite leadership on both the Arab and international levels, and has proved that the democratic plant your majesty sponsors is taking root and will become a policy of life for our people, who are looking forward to establishing the structure of a civilized entity. Our people are also willing to adhere to the principles of human rights and political and ideological pluralism in order to enable every citizen to exercise his freedom with awareness, morality, and responsibility; to guarantee his right to participate in responsibility and decisionmaking; and to reinforce the society's stability and security and the homeland's freedom and prosperity. All this takes place within the framework of a meaningful dialogue among the various schools of thought and of a commitment to the values of our true religion and its noble teachings, including respect for the mind and other opinions, avoidance of accusations and defamation, and renunciation of the factors of fragmentation.

Your Majesty: You have been eager to clarify and emphasize meanings in several parts of the speech from the throne, along with other related and integrated meanings. You have also referred to freedom under the umbrella of law, the multiplicity of Constitutional powers and their independence, and the responsibility of the executive authority before the legislative authority, and the independence of the judiciary.

You have demanded that we all work so our democratic march will be the model that satisfies the nation, and becomes a beacon guiding our path. You also called for remembering the responsibility and sacred trust of all measures taken by the Senate, every good word spoken by its members, and every honorable stand they take in the service of the homeland's supreme interest.

The Senate pledges to Your Majesty to do its best to shoulder this responsibility and to spare no effort in the field of cooperation and consultation with the government of your majesty in accordance with the principles of the Constitution, which guarantees harmony between the legislative and executive authorities within a framework of integration, independence, mutual respect, and public interest.

The Senate, while carrying out its Constitutional role—in its capacity as one of the Parliament's two houses—believes that this sincere cooperation with the executive authority is a constant constitutional responsibility to bolster the national development march in all political, legislative, economic, and social fields in a manner that realizes the people's role in decisionmaking, safeguards national unity, provides security and stability to citizens, and contributes to building the model homeland in which equality, freedom, and stability prevails, and in which human dignity is preserved and the homeland's interest is given the priority.

Your Majesty, the Senate shares your view about the importance of this stage from the political and economic points of view and in terms of international strategy. During the past few years, speedy changes have taken place and introduced major challenges on the Arab, regional, and international levels. Praise be to God, our country was able to confront these challenges, and continued its march firmly and confidently, thanks to the shrewdness and wisdom of His Majesty King Husayn, the good manner in which he deals with issues, their causes, and results.

The Senate believes the next few years will witness very important developments due to the transformations, changes in balances and international interests, and the subsequent positions and political and economic interactions and the setting up of huge economic blocs in different parts of the world, and the rivalry and confrontations that may take place between them, whose results may influence our region. This calls for more alertness and vigilance, and for adopting measures to confront these changes and reduce their negative results.

Your Majesty, the peace issue, the Palestinian cause, and the stand on holy Jerusalem, the city of peace, have taken an important part of the esteemed speech from the throne. Your Majesty's address was marked by clarity, frankness, and detail. As you have said and decided, the forthcoming stage of the peace process requires from us a firm position based on our national unity and constants. These are based on international legitimacy and our unswerving resolve to attain a just and comprehensive peace that future generations will accept; a peace based on regaining all our rights, securing for the Palestinian people their legitimate rights on their national soil, and providing security and peace for the countries and people in the region. This dictates the continuation of coordination with the Arab brothers, particularly the Palestinian brothers.

It goes without saying that Jordan's approach to the various stages of the peace process has always been based on Jordan's constants and clear stands that emphasize the need to regain Arab rights, and that call for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem. Your Majesty has described it as the city of peace, and as the emblem of peace and its essence, and over which Your Majesty accepts no other sovereignty than that of God almighty.

The Senate supports your repeated calls to form a venerable nonpolitical Arab and Islamic commission that will unite Muslims, that will represent the various sects, and that will be tasked with taking care of Islamic holy places; a commission Your Majesty supports from the premise of your religious and historical responsibility toward holy Jerusalem, and toward the Awqaf, Islamic judiciary, and Islamic sacred places in Palestine. We will continue to remind the world, at the same time, of Your Majesty's stand when you decided to renovate the Dome of the Rock and rebuild the al-Aqsa mosque pulpit—with funding for all this thanks to Your Majesty's personal initiative, not to mention your concern to complete the repair of old mosques and the tombs of Prophet Muhammad's companions, may God's blessing be upon

them. All these are well-established and known Hashemite gestures and deeds that link the righteous Hashemite household to this sacred land that God has blessed. History will not forget the stand of the grand savior al-Husayn Bin-'Ali, may God have him rest in peace, who sacrificed his throne for Palestine and for its people's rights. Martyr King 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn followed in his footsteps while your majesty has upheld the same course, which you embody in its most splendid forms.

Your Majesty the king, sir, we share with you the belief that the example we are making of Jordan, through cooperation, work, and responsible freedom, will produce a stable and unified homeland, in which citizenship will be the basis of ties among all citizens, without any discrimination. In this homeland, state institutions will be for the entire homeland, for all citizens. Moreover, we believe that the valiant Jordanian Armed Forces and the various national security organs will remain at the forefront. They will continue to be a source of pride for us for the efforts they have been making to protect the homeland and citizens, and to provide them with both security and peace. We will continue to harbor immense affection for them. It is our duty to extend all possible support to them so they may continue with their tasks and achieve the desired objective of enhanced strength and immunity. This is because the strength of these organs will lend citizens strength; as for their immunity, it will reflect on the immunity of the homeland, as they will be able to defend it. They are an asset to our Arab nation; they will remain willing to defend this nation's rights, uphold its causes, and promote the Great Arab Revolt's objectives of unity, freedom, and justice. Additionally, they are performing their international humanitarian duties as part of peacekeeping forces.

Your Majesty, sir, Jordan's position, as well as that of the Hashemite family, toward the issue of achieving Arab solidarity will remain a source of pride for us. This position will continue to be appreciated by Arabs. Jordan extends the hand of fraternity and solidarity to all fraternal Arabs so there may be a sincere cooperation to clear the inter-Arab air and forge a joint strategy for addressing the new phase, particularly since this phase has produced international and regional changes requiring solidarity and cooperation, which are necessary to revive the institutions of joint Arab action and draft an Arab cultural plan. This plan, which must reflect a clear perspective, should enable us to get actively involved in the efforts to forge an international humanitarian discourse so we may ensure the protection of our national and pan-Arab interests. It goes without saying that this is unachievable unless cooperation with all fraternal Islamic states is enhanced, and unless ties are promoted with the friendly states which cherish freedom, justice, and peace. But it remains to be said that success in all these endeavors is contingent upon reinforcing our domestic front and establishing a contemporary and modern country based on the values cherished by our faith and legacy, which are grounded in right, justice, equality, and equal opportunities for all citizens.

Your Majesty, the Senate has been following with interest Your Majesty's explanation in the speech from the throne of the government's achievements, which have been made through perpetual and joint efforts, which were not interrupted by the change of cabinets, and which did not take place suddenly and within a limited period. Therefore, the Senate blesses efforts exerted by Your Majesty's government, and will extend all help to it to achieve its goals in the interest of the homeland and the citizen, particularly with regard to the implementation of administrative and financial decentralization and to strengthen local government in order to broaden the framework of participation.

The Senate also stresses its great appreciation and support for Your Majesty's constant belief in freedom of thought, expression, and participation in a responsible atmosphere. It also expresses its pleasure at what this has achieved and will achieve in the intellectual, educational, literary, artistic, and youth movement. This contains much that is good.

Regarding the issue of unemployment and poverty, the Senate realizes the size of the problem and the depth of the tragedy and its connection with various situations and factors. It also values the efforts previous governments have exerted over the past years and looks forward to doubling these efforts to ease the sufferings of some citizens.

The Senate also cannot but value the efforts to implement the principle of gradual self-sufficiency, and the efforts to safeguard financial and monetary stability, decrease the burden of foreign debt, reduce the budget deficit, control expenditures, shore up the kingdom's foreign currency reserves, and stabilize the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate, as well as the other achievements in the financial, monetary, and investment fields.

The Senate hopes Jordanian women will have a greater role in public life. The Senate also wishes that special attention should be devoted to education, higher education, agriculture, water policy, the environment and its protection, and health. These fields should be given more care when policies are formulated, implemented, and followed up. The Senate is aware of the obstacles facing such an objective, but it is confident that persistent sincere efforts will surely eliminate many of these obstacles thanks to Your Majesty's wise leadership that this country enjoys. This leadership, along with the the efforts of the loyal sons of this nation, are our hope in a dignified future that will fulfill our aspirations for pride, dignity, and prosperity.

And say: Work righteousness: Soon will God observe your work. [Koranic verse]

We ask God to protect you, and to assist you in bearing the burden for the sake of your Jordanian family and your Arab and Islamic nation.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

House Replies to 23 Nov Speech

JN2911125693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1221 GMT 29 Nov 93

["Text" of the House of Representatives reply to King Husayn's speech from the throne, read by House Speaker Tahir al-Masri at the Royal Court in Amman on 29 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Majesty King Husayn, may God protect and watch over you.

God's peace and blessing be upon you.

The 12th House of Representatives is pleased to extend to Your Majesty its thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for opening its first ordinary session and delivering the speech from the throne. The speech comprehensively reviewed the achievements, efforts, and broad outlines of the government's policy on the domestic and foreign levels.

Your Majesty: The House of Representatives is honored to present its reply to Your Majesty's speech from the throne. The House of Representatives beseeches Almighty God to keep you in good health to continue to lead this country's march of development and progress, and to enable you to continue to shoulder the grave responsibilities to which you have dedicated your efforts in your youth, in a courageous, pioneering, and creative manner.

Your Majesty, we share your belief that unity of ranks and positions and the cohesion of the internal front help promote solidarity and cooperation and safeguard our national unity and accomplishments, guided by our traditions, faith, and consultative, democratic drive.

We extend to Your Majesty our great appreciation and thanks for your congratulations to the people's deputies, who deem this royal gesture a high medal of honor obliging them, before your majesty and your people—who enabled them to assume this high post—to keep the trust and fulfill the message in the most serious and diligent manner.

The deputies of the people consider your attention to, and care for freedom, democracy, and human rights; your concentration on planting firmly political pluralism that adheres to the Constitution and to the National Charter; and your emphasis on translating this attention into stability for Jordanian political action—a blessed step and a first brick in the edifice of democracy, which is being practiced in a fair, free atmosphere. This practice is also governed by ties of brotherliness between the sons of the one people, who derive their strength from their tolerant creed, Constitution, and National Charter. This also takes place in light of your majesty's call for establishing an impregnable, modern Jordanian state based on justice, right, equality, and equal opportunities for all citizens.

Within this context, we believe there is a need to promote the economic, social, and services situation in the underprivileged areas, taking into consideration the problem of unemployment and poverty affecting broad sectors of the people. This problem tops the internal challenges threatening our society's security and stability. This also requires an integrated economic and social perception that takes into consideration the possibility of combining the available material potentials in accordance with a fairer, more fruitful formula.

In order to embody Your Majesty's assertion of the importance of bypassing bureaucracy, favoritism, and individualism—diseases that negatively affect the performance of the government and obstruct its progress—the House of Representatives underscores the importance of resorting to objective bases in choosing the leaders of the administrative apparatus. The House also underscores the importance of invigorating the government through supporting it with efficient and creative skills and paving the way for these skills to assume their natural positions in order to achieve progress on all levels.

Your Majesty, our House highly assesses Your Majesty's continuous concern and care for the vanguards of the homeland's sons, the affiliates of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Public Security, the General Intelligence, and Civil Defense—the shield of the nation and its vigilant eyes. This gave us unique national security and stability which safeguarded the freedom of the homeland and human dignity of citizens and turned the Kingdom into a distinguished oasis for security and stability in a world which suffers from the pains of chaos and conflicts. Our House also expresses its pride in the humanitarian contributions of our Armed Forces in the international peacekeeping forces.

As the House of Representatives values Jordan's assumption of its historical responsibilities in defending the homeland and liberating the holy lands, it praises Your Majesty's instructions to support the Armed Forces, expand the basis of military training, and prepare the people in the military, economic, and education fields so that they will be able to defend the homeland. Homelands are built through preparing good citizens. This calls for activating the philosophy of education based on faith in God and higher values of the Arab nation in all information guidance institutions to prevent any disharmony in what our sons receive in the various guidance institutions so that all these institutions will work in accordance with the doctrine of the nation and education philosophy in it.

Your Majesty, we applaud the Hashemites' jihad to maintain Jerusalem and Palestine from the time God chose it as the place to which his messenger—your Arab Hashemite forefather—may God's peace and blessings be upon him, performed his nocturnal journey, and ever since God chose it as the first qiblah of Muslims [direction toward which Muslims turn for prayer], as the third mosque for which pilgrimage is performed—after the two holy mosques in Mecca and Medina—and as the cradle of Jesus Christ.

We highly regard Your Majesty's directive in your royal speech that we will not relinquish or abandon our religious and historic responsibility toward holy Jerusalem. We reemphasize our firm religious and historic belief that Jerusalem and Palestine are part of our religion, faith, and Arabism. We will preserve them. We will not relinquish them.

Since it was conquered by the Muslim Caliph 'Umar, Jerusalem has been under our civilized care. The places of worship of followers of other religions were maintained and their freedom of worship was guaranteed. Under Islam, Jerusalem was the land of peace, justice, and mercy, which are the foundations of our Arab and Islamic culture.

We highly value Your Majesty's constant call for a just, comprehensive peace. Such a peace will not be achieved unless all the chaste occupied Arab Palestinian territory and occupied Arab territories are restored to their rightful owners.

The House of Representatives hail the Palestinian people's uprising in the face of injustice and occupation in an open and daring demonstration of the Arab nation's conscience and faith.

Your Majesty, improving and upgrading Arab relations is an inevitable and crucial issue. Arab leaders and peoples must work toward this end, especially in view of the current strenuous circumstances which provide no room for the weak. This requires that work be done to establish unity among Arab states as a response to the disgrace and weakness that division has brought.

Appreciating your blessed effort to achieve Arab solidarity and commending our country's principled stands under your leadership on the Arab nation's issues, our House blesses your call for amending the Arab League Charter in a manner that ensures a greater degree of cooperation, coordination, and integration among the sisterly Arab states to overcome the current state of Arab weakness and insignificance, so that the Arab nation would retore the status that fits its great message and glorious history.

Within this context, we strongly support Your Majesty's call for restoring cohesion and interconnection to the unified Islamic Arab ideological speech, which was divided by this century's political applications, so that this speech will be the intellectual term of reference that unites our aims and the way to achieve them and so that it will be the basis on which our future generations are brought up in order to link the heritage to contemporary times as a prelude to achieving the nation's objectives.

We highly value Jordan's position under Your Majesty's leadership for the sake of ending the suffering of the people of sisterly Iraq and standing by their side with a view to establishing justice and lifting the injustice represented in the continuation of the siege imposed on its people and their exposure to destruction. Although Iraq did all it was asked to do by the Security Council, the unfair and unjustified embargo decision continued on the international and humanitarian levels.

Your Majesty, the Jordanian House of Representatives highly values your Islamic zeal in defending the name, essence, and reality of the noble Islamic religion at a time when the nation's enemies are trying to level accusations against it, seeking to brand it as reactionary, fundamentalist, and extremist, although it is the religion of civilization, tolerance, and centrism—a religion which wishes the good of all.

Your Majesty, as we appreciate the meanings and values contained in your noble speech on the role of the House of Representatives, it pleases us to stress that the House, which won the confidence of the Jordanian people, will translate this dear confidence and great responsibility into national positions that protect their interests, and safeguard their rights as well as the rights of the nation and its holy shrines. The House will participate on a high level in shouldering responsibilities and making decisions which sincerely express our people's values, Islamic Arab pulse, and blessed aspiration for a dignified future commensurate with their sublime position in human history.

The Jordanian House of Representatives, the product of consultative democracy, which is taking root, will continue to honestly support and enhance our democratic option so that Jordan will continue to be a good example to be emulated and so that the dignity and rights of its people will continue to be safeguarded and guaranteed.

The 12th House of Representatives, while beginning its first term, aspires to shoulder its constitutional responsibility in legislation and scrutiny in the best possible way. The House beseeches almighty God to preserve Jordan under your wise leadership so that it will be a model for freedom, justice, and self- sufficiency; an impregnable citadel for security and stability; and an oasis of benevolence, dignity, and blessing.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Husayn, Mubarak Agree To Revive Joint Committees

PM2911155693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Nov 93 p5

[Unattributed report: "Responsible Source in Amman Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: King Husayn and Mubarak Agreed To Revive Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committees"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—During King Husayn's talks with President Husni Mubarak in Cairo, the two sides agreed to revive the Egyptian-Jordanian joint committees and to work for the restoration of Arab solidarity.

A Jordanian responsible source emphasized yesterday that the talks between the Jordanian monarch and the Egyptian president were successful, extremely cordial, and fulfilled their objectives.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the source said that King Husayn's visit to Cairo was a great success which is bound to end the misunderstanding that governed Egyptian-Jordanian relations over the past three years as a result of the repercussions of Gulf events.

He added that the Jordanian monarch and the Egyptian president agreed to resume the political coordination which had existed between them for years before.

The source also said that Jordanian and Egyptian views were identical on regional and international issues, particularly the peace process and related developments. He added that the cordial atmosphere of the Egyptian-Jordanian talks reflected the desire of the Jordanian and Egyptian leaderships to have a complete reconcilation between Jordan and Egypt and to restore Egyptian-Jordanian relations to what they were before the 1990 Gulf crisis.

The source further said that the coming days and weeks would witness more positive developments in Egyptian-Jordanian relations such as the revival of their joint committees including the Higher Committee which used to meet regularly in Amman and Cairo every six months under the cochairmanship of the prime ministers of both countries.

The Jordanian source said he hoped King Husayn's visit to Cairo would help open the way for the restoration of Jordan's relations with all the Arab states with whom ties have been frozen over the past three years following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Jordan, he said, hopes that Cairo will open channels of dialogue between various Arab capitals with a view to reviving Arab solidarity and reactivating joint Arab action at this stage in particular.

The source added that King Husayn and President Mubarak agreed that political coordination between the Egyptian and Jordanian foreign policy at the Arab and international levels should be strengthened to ensure success of the peace efforts in the region and promote a just, lasting, and honorable peace acceptable to future generations, a peace on all fronts guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights including their right to have their own independent state on their national soil.

It is noteworthy that King Husayn's visit to Cairo last Wednesday came two days after a similar visit to Syria on Sunday.

Visit Part of Arab Reconciliation Effort

PM2611162993 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Nov 93 p 3

[Wafa' 'Amr report: "Husayn Speeds Up Rapprochement With Gulf by Normalizing Relations With Egypt"]

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Well-informed Jordanian sources have emphasized that King Husayn agreed with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to intensify join coordination over the peace process.

The sources said that Jordan devoted special interest to King Husayn's brief visit to Egypt, especially as it came immediately after his visit to Damascus. Because Jordan believes that the visit is the beginning of breaking the isolation imposed on it by most Gulf states since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The sources added that the Jordanian monarch discussed with President Mubarak several fundamental issues relating to the peace process, most importantly an explanation of the Jordanian position of the peace process. The sources said that King Husayn stressed to the Egyptian president that Jordan is committed to the peace process and that he has started genuine steps toward achieving peace with Israel.

The sources added that "King Husayn pointed out that Jordan will not embark on signing a peace treaty with Israel at present, but he will begin soon to take clear and certain steps to build trust with Israel."

The sources pointed out that Jordan has told Egypt that a peace treaty with Israel requires a long time and the need for Israel to display its seriousness in achieving a just and lasting peace.

Among the assurances Jordan wants from Israel is the recovery of its territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war, in addition to the kingdom's obtainment of its rights to the water of which it has been deprived, as well as a fair Jordanian-Israeli economic accord.

The sources said that King Husayn expressed Jordan's nonacceptance "of early normalization with Israel and its rejection of an end to the boycott of Israel except after Israel achieves tangible progress toward peace with all the Arab parties participating in the peace process." [passage omitted]

Officials and diplomats believe that the possibility of an imminent breakthrough with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait is still weak.

A government official said that Jordan gives Arab reconciliation utmost precedence and that it will continue its endeavors to achieve this aim, even if it sees no encouraging signs from Riyadh and Kuwait.

Diplomats say that Kuwait is exerting pressure on Jordan to get it to recognize the new Kuwait-Iraq border

demarcated by the United Nations as a gesture of goodwill. Jordan says it has not received an official request from Kuwait.

Jordan has taken steps to improve relations, including allowing the Kuwaiti newspapers' return this week, as it had banned them since 1991 because of what it termed hostile coverage. [passage omitted]

Al-Majali, al-Husayni Discuss Peace Process

JN2711192293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] At the Prime Ministry today, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd- al-Salam al-Majali received Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team.

During the meeting, there was a comprehensive review of the peace process in the region and the common areas of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. Al-Husayni briefed the prime minister on his European visit, which focused on supporting the Middle East peace process.

The meeting was attended by al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Minister on Need for Coordination With Palestinians

JN3011123793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Nov 93 pp 1, 26

[By Hamdan al-Haj]

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, has stressed the need for a great deal of cooperation and coordination in Jordanian-Palestinian relations, noting that coordination is clearly needed because any economic agreement between the Palestinian side and Israel will have its impact on Jordan.

In an exclusive interview with AL-DUSTUR, Dr. al-'Anani added: We do not want the Israelis to single out parties and obtain something from one party to bargain over it with another party. Such action does not achieve the expected results of this process.

Dr. al-'Anani reaffirmed the peculiarity of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, describing them as historically, socially, and politically very strong, and that their interests are interconnected. This is felt by the people day after day and step by step in terms of the effects of this interconnection on their daily interests. Therefore, coordination is greatly needed.

Al-'Anani said that cooperation is needed so that there can be a unified Arab side to confront the Israeli ambitions which aim at achieving cooperation with one party at the expense of Jordanian- Palestinian relations.

Dr. al-'Anani said that Jordan realizes that the Palestinians have a clear agenda within the process of reaching clear solutions for Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. He said that the Palestinians are busy with security issues, practicing self-rule, establishing centers, and securing sources of the necessary financial aid. This sometimes does not make coordination a priority in light of many others issues preoccupying the Palestinians. Ultimately, however, the required cooperation and coordination has to take place.

Dr. al-'Anani explained that specific proposals have been presented to Jordan concerning the negative impact of the embargo imposed on Iraq. The technical aspects of these proposals will be examined in order to present alternative proposals. He said he believes there is U.S. seriousness in finding a solution to Jordan's problem and to the method of implementing the embargo on fraternal Iraq, which is not only affecting Iraq but is greatly affecting the Jordanian economy.

Dr. al-'Anani stressed the need to achieve clear progress on all tracks of the peace process. He added: We believe that the various tracks may progress at various speeds—which is logical and realistic—but great variance in speed makes us feel that the peace process is not proceeding in a balanced way.

Dr. al-'Anani added: Therefore, Jordan would like to see the peace process advance without unjustified restrictions and to maintain balance on all tracks.

13 Dec Deadline 'Litmus Test' for Israeli Intentions

JN3011095493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Significance of Dec. 13]

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord, signed at the White House last September, appears to be on the brink of unravelling over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin government's new stance that the date set for the implementation of the deal is not so "sacred." Israeli Health Minister Hayim Ramon went as far as saying that the Dec. 13 deadline is nowhere found in the Ten Commandments, in an effort to belittle the dispute.

The two basic issues that still divide the PLO and Israel are the size of the Jericho territory that Israeli soldiers must withdraw from and control over border crossing with Jordan and Egypt. For the Palestinians, the date for enforcing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement is extremely critical. It was no easy task for the PLO leadership to sell the deal to its people in the first place. The organisation has also encountered violent opposition from various Palestinian factions because it has signed the deal.

If Mr. Rabin reneges on this modest pact with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the antagonists of the peace process would appear to be vindicated and their hands strengthened among the Palestinian constituencies, including those who chose to give the accord the benefit of the doubt. Now the groups that fought and are still fighting the Sept. 13 accord have all the justification to tell their opponents "I told you so."

Symbolically, the deadline for putting in place the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on interim self-rule for the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho is not just a date on the calendar. It is a litmus test of Israeli seriousness to withdraw from even a few kilometres of Palestinian territory and give the moderate Palestinians a glimmer of hope about the prospects for peace in the Middle East. If the Israeli side keeps on insisting that the agreed upon Declaration of Principles with the PLO means only the redeployment of Israeli armed forces around Jericho and Gaza at a time when the wording of the initial accord specifically calls for withdrawal, any agreement with Tel Aviv within the framework of the Declaration of Principles is not worth the paper on which it is written.

This whole exercise between the PLO and the Rabin government also brings into question the significance of any undetailed deal with the Israelis. One wonders why the extent of Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area was not spelled out in the first place. Surely it must have crossed the minds of the two parties that such a significant piece of "detail" goes into the heart of the matter, and leaving it out hanging in thin air is an irresponsible negotiating tactic. This episode also vindicates the Syrian concerns about the ultimate Israeli intentions. Damascus insists that even an initial or interim peace agreement must be iron-clad in details to avoid the pitfalls of the Gaza-Jericho First deal. Henceforth, all the Arab parties should aim to pin down their Israeli counterparts on every single detail.

Bahraini Paper Interviews al-Hirawi on Peace Plan

NC3011095193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stated that Lebanon and Syria will work toward an agreement on the principle of a comprehensive Middle East solution. He said there should be comprehensive peace in the region or no peace at all. In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, he said Lebanon cannot settle the Palestinians on its territory.

Discussing Lebanon's refusal to join the multilateral talks on water distribution in the Middle East, President al-Hirawi emphasized Lebanon's position of refusing to discuss the water with Israel before it withdraws from Lebanon.

Al-Hariri Announces 500 Employees Dismissed

NC3011083893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Yazbik Wahbah dispatch from B'abda Palace]

[Excerpt] After the cabinet meeting this evening, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri explained that the cabinet studied a report submitted by a special committee in charge of administrative reform. He said the cabinet approved the entire report. The cabinet accepted the resignations of some employees.

Al-Hariri announced that approximately 500 employees will be made redundant and some others will be referred to the State Disciplinary Council.

He added that the special committee studied the cases meticulously. He explained that the redundant employees will be placed at the disposal of the Civil Service Council or any ministry that needs their services.

Answering a question, al-Hariri remarked that the administrative reform process will continue and will not be limited to the referral of employees to the Disciplinary Council but will also include a study of administrative procedures to reduce their complexity, establish an administration institute, and improve the salaries of public sector employees. He denied that the government has interfered with the work of the special committee in charge of administration reform. [passage omitted]

National Resistance Front Attacks SLA Post

NC2911182693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces shelled al-Jabal al-Akhdar, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, and Nab' al-Tasah basin from their positions in al-Zaflatah this afternoon. Earlier, the Israeli forces raked the woods around Kafr Rumman and Habbush, causing panic among the residents of the two towns. Enemy forces also raked the region around their positions in al-Dabshah and al-Tuhrah.

In a statement today, the Lebanese National Resistance Front announced that its members attacked the Joint Israeli-agents post of Rshaf. The militias [South Lebanese Army, SLA] radio admitted the operation but claimed no casualties.

Antoine Lahd, commander of the agent militias, meanwhile admitted that five of his militiamen had fled Tallusah post this month and gave themselves up to resistance men. Lahd said Israel will maintain its military occupation of the south even if a peace agreement is reached.

Israeli Forces Shell Southern Areas

NC3011095493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Israeli forces in the Kawkaba and al-Ahmadiyah hills shelled the al-Litani River basin this morning. Israeli forces stationed in western al-Biqa' bombarded the areas of Birkat Jabbur and Jabal al-Rayhan and raked nearby valleys with large-caliber machine guns.

Prime Minister on Economy, Supply, Electricity

JN2911173393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Damascus, 29 Nov (SANA)—The meetings of the comrade secretaries of the Ba'th Party branches and governors, led by Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, the Ba'th Party's assistant regional secretary, concluded this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister comrade Mahmud al-Zu'bi replied to questions and remarks from the comrade secretaries of the party branches and governors. He emphasized that the facts and figures presented on the social and economic march show the importance of what has been achieved in the social and economic sectors in Syria. He emphasized the need to entrench field action in order to discover and define defects, mistakes, and difficulties, and to work to overcome them. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Zu'bi clarified the government's measures to develop and entrench the national economy and realize comprehensive, balanced, and constant development. He referred to the new economic facts that show the solidity of our national economy and the credibility of the policies, trends, and measures taken in that field.

He spoke about agricultural and industrial development, as well as that in production and services. He emphasized that the principle of self-reliance, ordered by leader President Hafiz al-Asad, has enabled Syria to achieve food security in several food products. Work continues to expedite irrigation and land reclamation projects in order to develop agriculture, secure the food needs of our people, and industrial requirements for agricultural produce.

The comrade prime minister then referred to the supply situation. He emphasized that commodities available in our markets show the great improvement in the field of securing all citizens' requirements for food and consumer goods and reflect economic progress in Syria. [passage omitted]

The comrade prime minister clarified measures taken to deal with the electricity situation by intensifying maintenance work to operate the power plants at their real capacities, and by making contracts to purchase new power plants, in implementation of leader President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions to deal with the electricity situation in a radical and decisive manner. [passage omitted]

Deputy Prime Minister on Jordan Ties, Economy

JN2711153793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Nov 93 pp 1, 16

[By 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barghuthi]

[Text] Damascus—Dr. Salim Yasin, Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, has said both Damascus and Amman wish and intend to diversify bilateral economic and trade cooperation. In a dialogue with a Jordanian press mission, Yasin said experts from both countries are studying the expansion of existing border free zones. He said that in addition to the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company, other joint ventures exist in maritime transportation and the cement and carpet industries. He said significant successes have been achieved in these areas, which proves there are prospects for establishing the basic foundations of economic unity and creating a network of bilateral interests. He said any obstacles that develop will be overcome.

Dr. Yasin said Syria has no objection to the establishment of Jordanian and Syrian commercial centers in Damascus and Amman. He said both countries are already linked with distinguished relations. He said they are two neighboring countries with numerous links. Merchants on both sides are fully aware of what exists in markets on the other side, as is the case between Damascus and Beirut. He said annual fairs in Amman, Damascus, and Beirut contribute much to serving the objectives sought by the [words indistinct].

On how Syria views the economy of peace and what it has done in preparation in this regard, Dr. Yasin said: Syria will not deviate from its position calling for a comprehensive, full, and just peace. He said if such a peace is achieved, it will certainly improve the economies of the entire region. Otherwise, he said, no positive results can be expected. On the contrary, all economic activities would be negatively affected, he said.

He said so far only a partial, separate solution that will not lead to a just, comprehensive peace has been achieved. He said when such a peace materializes, Syria will begin to prepare to meet its requirements.

He said: Syria has never been and is not among the heavily indebted countries. Loans Syria has received are not commercial loans, but are used in productive investment projects. They are medium- and long-term easy loans. Up to this moment, the projects that have received loans continue to honor their commitments to pay these loans.

He added: Syria's commercial loans are strictly credit facilities that have been obtained by some of our banks. These credit facilities are very limited in comparison with the dealings of the banks themselves. It can be said that most of these facilities have been dealt with and are almost covered.

Dr. Yasin said: According to the latest statistics, Syrian banking establishments borrowed 2.017 billion Syrian pounds by the end of last year. According to the free market's rate of 50 Syrian pounds per dollar, this sum amounts to approximately $40 million. The official rate is 42-45 pounds per dollar.

Replying to a question, Yasin said: We view development as a comprehensive and continued process. No permanent complete prescription for development can be applied at all times and in all places. What fits this country may not necessarily fit another country. We have phased planning

and implementation. In the early 1980's, we started a new development phase. In order to meet our requirements, we found it appropriate to focus on:

First, horizontal and vertical expansion in the agricultural sector to increase the area under cultivation and to increase the output of farming units. We are a nation that eats what it plants.

Second, searching for natural resources, including oil and gas. We announced major discoveries of gas and oil.

Third, achieving the highest possible production rate in the convertible industries.

In order to achieve the three objectives, the state has worked out Law No. 10 to create an appropriate atmosphere to encourage and activate the private and joint sectors by providing incentives and guarantees, including, for example, tax and customs exemptions, credit facilities, and a grace period for profits. These procedures have encouraged tens of billions [currency not identified] in Syrian capital abroad to return home. They have encouraged Arab and foreign investment. Firms were actually established in the past three years. These largely met market needs, achieved self-sufficiency in all consumer products, created wide employment opportunities in various governorates, and put unemployment at its lowest level among world states.

Yasin added: Of course, we will follow up on this law in order to promote it. Many decisions have been made. For example, the joint sector, that comprises the state and the private sectors, was established in October 1986, after which the public sector, which is the state, monopolized only the oil and gas industries. All other industries were transferred to the private and joint sectors, thus turning us into a nation that consumes what it manufactures.

Concluding the dialogue, the Syrian deputy prime minister said: There is no deficit in Syria's budget. The growth rate in Syria is 10 percent; in 1992, the growth rate was a little greater than [words indistinct] reached 124 billion Syrian pounds. He added: We are facing an electricity problem, caused primarily by increased consumption due to elevated population growth rates, an improvement in the standard of living, and rural electrification. These factors increased the consumption of electricity by 12 percent. This problem will end in the next two years, God willing, Yasin noted.

Radio on Israel's 'Feverish Armament Drive'

JN2811161493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Station commentry]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel, through its Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, has called on Arab countries to reduce their arms spending and to cooperate with it to establish an economic bloc in the Middle East. This call sounds very strange in light of Israel's feverish armament drive and its rejection of just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Every country and government in the world knows Israel has become a huge arsenal of conventional and nonconventional weapons. They also know that despite the two years since the Madrid conference and the start of the Washington talks, and despite reaffirmation in all international forums by Arabs that they seek a just and real peace, Israel continues to sabotage peace efforts and opportunities. Israel openly refuses to implement UN Security Council resolutions that form the basis of the peace process. It is promoting separate deals that avoid achieving peace while it prepares for more conflict in the Middle East.

Israel used the Oslo draft agreement, which does not meet the requirements of a just and comprhensive peace, to obstruct the Washington negotiations, avoid a real solution to the Middle East crisis, and pressure the U.S Administration to provide it with huge amounts of weapons. Indeed, after his recent visit to Washington, Yitzhaq Rabin received much military equipment, including advanced fighter aircraft, bombers, and helicopters under the pretext of threatened security and the risks of peace.

But, where is peace? Does the Gaza-Jericho agreement lead to peace? One look at the Palestinian arena is enough to say that peace is still a dream. The Palestinian people are still besieged by tanks and many troops. Sources on the Palestinian side, which was drawn into the Israeli trap and signed the Oslo agreement, have admitted negotiations to implement the agreement still face great difficulties because the rulers of Tel Aviv refuse to withdraw their forces from Gaza and Jericho and insist on controlling various aspects of life in the occupied territories through their oppressive military forces.

When we compare Israeli and Arab armament, we see that it is Israel that is stockpiling weapons and exerting pressure and blackmailing Western countries in order to acquire huge amounts of offensive weapons. Meanwhile, if the Arabs have weapons, it is mainly for defensive purposes. Peace cannot be achieved by stockpiling destructive weapons and by securing Israel's military edge over all the Arab countries. Peace cannot be acheived by threat and blackmail, but only through a response to UN resolutions and the Madrid conference's principles of peace.

With the concerned Arab parties, Syria is committed to achieving a just, comprehensive, and firm peace in the Middle East. So far, this response to peace has come from the Arab side, while Israel refuses to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. It insists on occupying the territories and depriving the Palestinian people of their legitimate national rights, without which peace cannot be achieved.

If the Madrid conference was launched out of a need to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on returning the occupied territories, then Israeli occupation still supresses our kinsfolk in the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon. So far, Israel is not committed to returning land and withdrawing its aggressive forces. The Palestinian side, which was drawn to Israel's proposals and signed the Oslo agreement, has reaped only bitter fruit. The Palestinian arena is in a state of turmoil. Events are escalating. If Israel wants peace, then it should submit to the conditions and requirements of peace, in word and deed. It should stop stockpiling lethal weapons that provoke deep concern among Arabs.

Furthermore, Israel's call for economic cooperation—while occupation continues, while settlement activities continue, and while UN resolutions continue to be rejected—is a phony call designed to mislead public opinion and cover up hostile new schemes targetting Arab countries. Israel's call works against the chances for a just and comprehensive peace. These chances are threatened now more than at any other time.

Paper Sees 'Deception' in Israel-PLO Pact

JN3011132993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "the Awakening," the newspaper TISHRIN says in its editorial: Damascus has affirmed that the Oslo agreement gave Israel everything: recognition, the liquidation of the Palestine question, and the possibility of normalizing relations, but without committing it to anything. Thus, the Oslo agreement and its results are not in the interest of the Palestinians, and do not address the roots of the conflict.

TISHRIN adds: Now that more than two months have passed since the signing of the agreement, the deception has begun to appear, the delusions instilled by force have been disclosed, and events have emerged which undoubtedly affirm that the position taken by Damascus was correct and sound.

TISHRIN asserts that this agreement did not improve the circumstances leading to a peace settlement. Rather, it complicated them, created new problems and serious obstacles in the way of achieving real peace. Moreover, the Oslo deal did not convince Israel to abandon its conduct and retreat from its Torah plans designed to establish a Zionist empire controlling the region and subduing its residents.

The paper reviews the proof confirming this fact, such as the continued building of settlements, the consolidation of the war machine, and Rabin's statements which affirmed that, regardless of circumstances, no settlement will be dismantled and that he would not repeat the mistake committed by the Likud when it signed the Camp David accords with Egypt.

TISHRIN adds: In addition to these facts, and following the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel froze the entire peace process, particularly on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The Rabin Government has thus reaffirmed that it does not want to establish a just and comprehensive peace, and that it is currently content with the deal made with 'Arafat.

TISHRIN wonders: If Israel really wants peace with the Palestinians, why did it increase its repressive operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after it signed an agreement with them? Referring to the Zionist practices against the Palestinian people and territory, the paper says: The occupation forces turned the occupied territories into an intolerable inferno through killings, arrests, and confiscating lands. They also escalated their aggressive acts against Lebanon. All this happened in the wake of the Oslo agreement with the PLO.

The paper stresses that the PLO's separate peace with Israel has led to an agreement which is actually a Palestinian deed of surrender. An agreement between a strong party and a weak party leads to capitulation and not peace. The PLO actually adopted this position, thus losing both the Syrian support and the Arab dimension. Consequently, the PLO lost all factors of its strength, fell in the Israeli trap, and yielded to the Israeli will, the paper adds.

TISHRIN continues: In brief, most Palestinians are against the Oslo agreement. Hence, this agreement will not survive regardless of the international pressures to save it.

India

Surface-to-Surface Medium-Range Missile Launched

BK3011110993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] The indigenously developed surface-to-surface medium range missile Prithvi [Earth] was successfully launched at 1225 PM [0655 GMT] from the interim test range at Chandipur on sea in Orissa today. Prithvi landed accurately after three minutes on a small island (Tentuli Chada) located in the Bay of Bengal as planned. This was the 12th launch of Prithvi. The speciality of today's launch is that it was from mobile launcher with a 250 kg payload. The scientific adviser to the Defense Ministry, Dr. Abdul Kalam, and the three service chiefs witnessed the test launch.

Commentary Criticizes 'U-Turn' on Pressler Law

BK2911124593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Commentary by Samuel Baid of UNITED NEWS OF INDIA]

[Text] In the past one week, two puzzling news items have been received from Pakistan and the United States. First, Pakistan's prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, revealed in Karachi that the country's nuclear program was capped, not rolled back in July 1990. The second news item came from Washington quoting the U.S. State Department spokesman (Mike McCurry) to say that the Pressler Amendment no longer serves the U.S. nonproliferation objectives in South Asia. What Ms. Bhutto told newsmen in Karachi had in fact been said earlier by the then caretaker prime minister, Moin Qureshi, during his visit to the United States soon after his assumption of power in July this year.

if these statements are correct, then Mr. (McCurry's) assertion that the Pressler Amendment no longer serves the U.S. nonproliferation objectives in South Asia raises one important question. Is he saying that the application of this amendment to Pakistan with effect from 1 November 1990 did not prove effective? If yes, then obviously Mr. Qureshi's and Ms. Bhutto's statements are not correct. In other words, in spite of the stoppage of military and economic aid by the United States, Pakistan has persisted with its nuclear weapon program. Other statements coming from Pakistan made it very clear that in the past few months that country was gradually unveiling its weapon-oriented program with a view to preparing the world public opinion to accept this fait accompli without much shock. Some of these statements are quoted here.

In October, Mr. Qureshi held a farewell press conference in Islamabad. At this conference, he repeated his new theory or whosoever's theory he was airing that Pakistan's nuclear program and the Kashmir issue are interlinked. His reason, as reported by the Urdu daily NAWA-I-WAQT, is that Kashmir has become a flashpoint. Pakistan cannot face India with conventional weapons. Therefore, it needs nuclear capability for its security and integrity. Former Foreign Minister Agha Shahi told BBC last month, Pakistan will have to continue its nuclear program because it cannot acquire conventional arms. Without this, it cannot face Indian aggression. Again last month, the so-called prime minister of occupied Kashmir said in Islamabad that if there is an India-Pak confrontation on Kashmir, there is a possibility of the use of nuclear weapons. And now, Ms. Bhutto has categorically declared that her country's nuclear program will not be rolled back. She described the nuclear issue as of a vital security interest of Pakistan.

All the above statements make it very clear that Pakistan's nuclear program is security related or in other words weapon oriented. Slogans like Our nuclear program is for peaceful purposes are mouthed to hoodwink public opinion abroad. Pakistan's executed Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had himself said in 1974 that no nuclear program was peaceful. It was when he was rejecting India's assertion that its nuclear program was peaceful. The timing of Mr. (McCurry's) statement is puzzling. It has come at a time when Pakistani leaders have begun to give broad hints of their nuclear capability and intentions. By taking a U-turn on the Pressler Amendment, does the Clinton administration want to tell the world that like in China, Somalia, and Haiti, it has failed in Pakistan too? Is it saying, let Pakistan go ahead with its nuclear program?

In the past, Washington argued that it was keeping Pakistan away from developing nuclear weapons by giving it conventional arms. But during the 1980's, when the American arms supply to Pakistan was in full swing in the name of the Afghan war, that country's clandestine nuclear program thrived the most. And Washington was well aware of it. Soon after the Soviets decided to leave Afghanistan, Washington held this program against Islamabad and stopped military and economic aid to it under the Pressler Amendment. In addition to it, Washington also accused Pakistan of drug running and encouraging terrorism abroad. In case Washington resumes its military and economic aid to Pakistan overlooking its nuclear program, there may be an upsurge in demands that now India must go nuclear. So far, India has resisted all such demands.

Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan Election Results Given

BK3011113193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Agency reports say the results for all the 422 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh for which elections were held are out. Of them, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and SP [Samajwadi Party]- BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] combine have secured 176 each, while the Congress-I and the Janata Dal 28 each. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxists] and the Janata Party have

shared one seat each while three have gone to the CPI. Independents and others share nine seats. Out of these, the official results for two seats are yet to come in. Elections in three constituencies—Manjanpur, Hastinapur, and Ghazipur Sadar have been countermanded following the death of candidates.

The state BJP unit president, Mr. Kalraj Mishra, together with the former state chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, called on the governor, Mr. Motilal Vora, in Lucknow this morning. Later, Mr. Mishra told our correspondent they urged the governor to invite the leader of the party to form the government in the state as it being the largest single party that has emerged after the elections. AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, Ramji Tripathy, reports that hectic political activity is on in the state capital about the formation of a new government. Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav along with Mr. Kansi Ram of the SP-BSP combine had already met the governor yesterday evening and staked their claim to form the government.

In Rajasthan, all the 199 results of the state assembly have been officially declared. The BJP with 95 seats has emerged as the single largest party. The Congress-I has bagged 76. The Janata Dal has secured six seats, CPI-M one, and independents 21. Hectic political activity continues to form a government in view of the hung assembly situation in the state. Leaders of both the BJP and the Congress-I are camping at Jaipur to chalk out strategies to secure the support of independents. The BJP has claimed majority in the house and asked the governor to invite Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat to form the government. Mr. Shekhawat was elected leader of the BJP legislature party yesterday. It is understood that the Congresss-I will also stake its claim to form the government after the election of its leader is finalized. The decision on electing the leader of the Congress-I legislature party has been left to the party president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

In Himachal Pradesh, political activity is on to elect the Congress-I legislature party leader. As already reported, the newly elected members of the Congress-I are meeting in Simla tomorrow to elect their leader. The chief minister of Punjab, Mr. Beant Singh; Mr. Santosh Mohan Deo, Union Minister for Steel; Mr. S.S. Sahu, MP; will attend the meeting as observers from the Congress high command.

Outcome of State Assembly Elections Surveyed

BK3011045693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Commentary by political commentator K.S. Ramamurthy]

[Text] Thanks largely to the insistence of the Election Commission on going by the relevant laws and rules in every respect, the just-concluded assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh [UP], Madhya Pradesh [MP], Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh, as well as in the national capital region of Delhi, have been free from electoral malpractices, unlike in many previous elections. This should inspire in the common man a renewed faith in the democratic system.

One overwhelming lesson of the elections is that the voters have cut some major parties to size but there is no discernable pattern or uniformity in voter preferances applicable to all the states and Delhi from where results are available. Thus, while the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has been routed in Himachal Pradesh, the Congress-I has been badly mauled in Delhi. In Rajasthan, the BJP has emerged as the largest single party while the Congress-I as the runner-up. The Congress-I, however, has increased its tally of seats by over 50 percent compared to the previous election in 1990. In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi and Bahujan Samaj Party combine is the largest single party, judging from the results so far, and the runner-up is the BJP and not the Congress-I. The performance of the Congress-I could be as dismal as it was in 1990. How the Muslims voted in UP is of crucial importance to future politics in the state. The Muslims comprise about 17 percent of the state's seven crore voters. They are said to be disenchanted with the Congress-I and hostile to the BJP. The Samajwadi-Bahujan Samaj Party combine seems to have benefitted as a result.

The Janata Dal has a small presence in the new legislatures of UP, Rajasthan, and Delhi. As a big party which once headed a government at the center and which still rules two states, it is being reduced to unimportance. Another party whose ambitions ended uneventfully was the Shiv Sena. The Bahujan Samaj Party which has been in existence for two decades has won a respectable number of seats for the first time in UP. Until the counting is completed in Madhya Pradesh, there is no knowing if it is going to be a force to reckon with outside UP. The harijans and tribals constitute 38 percent of the population in Madhya Pradesh. The Muslims are not a significant element except in the districts of Bhopal, Ujjain, and (Khanwa). The Bahujan Samaj Party claims to champion the cause of the downtrodden. It made its electoral debut in MP in 1990 with 186 candidates in the fray but won only two seats. But BJP on the other hand won over two-third majority.

Iran

President Interviewed on Rushdie, Foreign Ties

LD2911165293 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA —Iran's president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in an interview with Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal touched on important issues such as the Palestinian revolution, the relations between Iran and Egypt and the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's edict on the writer of *The Satanic Verses*, Salman Rushdie.

Haykal, former editor-in-chief of Cairo-based AL-AHRAM daily, is a veteran journalist of Middle Eastern politics and has interviewed the Iranian officials and leaders since the Islamic revolution of 1979. IRNA has acquired the full text of this interview and in what follows excerpts from this interview are presented:

Q. As an Egyptian I have made an effort to help establish healthy relations between Iran and Egypt. I think the two countries play a special role in the region and have special cultural values. Mr. President, I am preoccupied by the fact that the relations between Iran and Egypt is not as well as I have expected it to be. I do not see any clear incentive in that area. Previously I learned about contacts having been made between the two countries and that the ambassadors of the two countries had once met in Geneva as a prelude to expected meetings between the foreign ministers of Iran and Egypt. This was supposed to pave the way for subsequent steps which were not taken.

A. As you just mentioned we think Egypt and Iran, relying on their past and their resources can play a crucial role in the Muslim world. When, however, Egypt got into the Camp David trap my estimation was that the bullwark of the Muslim and Arab world had temporarliy been taken away from Muslims and Arabs, and that was the point of our split, each thereafter going a different direction.

We used to count on Egypt as the strongest source for the jihad to liberate Palestine. It was unfortunate that we have suffered the heaviest blow from the very source that we regarded as being a strong source on which to rely.

At that time our evaluation was that it (the Camp David accord) had broken the backbone of Palestine's struggle. That has been the main point of contention between us and Egypt. We expected Egypt to to be in the forefront of the struggle of Palestine, but, unfortunately, at the present day we see that Egypt is pioneering the efforts to undermine the jihad for Palestine.

Obviously, by Egypt I mean the Egyptian Government, not the people of that country who rank differently in our estimate. I think my answer should have left you with no room for any further question, and I hope in your endeavors to solve the problem (in relations between Iran and Egypt) you will think within the same framework.

Q. Maybe I do not think differently from you in relation to Camp David. I offered my view in Egypt. But there may be a difference between the historical roles of nations in different historical and gegrophical situations and the policies that may be warranted by special situation. Egypt and Iran must at least have necesaary relations with each other so that they may be able to enter into dialogue. I appreciate your position with reference to Camp David which is also my position. And I understand the extent of the harm that the agreement has done to the Muslim and Arab nations. But my question is that those cases are political realities. Egypt will continue to exist and to cooperate with it is necessary. Approaching Egypt should be through the channel of its government in the same manner that approaching America and other countries like Germany and England would be.

A. I do not disagree with you. That is also my personal view which I have said in the media. I think Iran and Egypt should have a dialogue. Of course, there are also opposing views in Iran. But I continue to believe that we should have a dialogue with Egypt in the hope that we might be able to correct the future course.

Q. Mr President, I would like to add a comment. You just mentioned that there are also opposing views in Iran, it is the same even in Egypt and their reason for opposition is that they say that Iran engages in acts which can be interpreted as acts of terrorism in Egypt. For example they say that Iran invests on operations against the Egyptian Government and that the source for supporting those operations is Iran. In my previous talks with the chairman of the al-Sha'b [People's] Assembly in the presence of the secretary of the Nationalist Party and secretary general of the International Relations Commission of the al-Sha'b Assembly I supported Iran. The chairman of the al-Sha'b Assembly said he had evidence which proved that Iran engaged in those operations and protested my support for Iran. In reply I told him that my support (for Iran) has its own reasons. To begin with, Iran looks forward to good relations with Egypt, and does not need to invest on terrorist operations. My second reason, which I think is as important, is that I tried to explain to him that the needs of the government in Iran has made the concepts and aspirations of the revolution (more) rational which is a natural phenomenon. Revolutions start with aspirations and ideals, they want to revolutionize the world. But the circumstances teach them later on to forego certain things and abandon certain of their judgements because those things are warranted by the factual realities of the government and by other neecessities.

I told him that when you arrest somebody and interrogate him you get the facts from him, but that when you are incriminating a country you must offer reasons. I would like to hear your candid comments.

A. That is an accusation levelled by anyone that has wanted to oppose Iran, but thus far they have been unable to demonstrate anything to that effect, nor will they be ever able to do so at any future time.

We do not need to resort to irrational or violent acts in order to publicize our thoughts and feelings. Perhaps there is no country in the world that has suffered from terrorism as much as Iran has suffered. We have been the target of much harm, and we have lost our comrades and those who were imprisoned (during the shah's rule for political activities) in acts of terrorism (perpetrated against them), acts of terrorism that were sponsored outside of Iran.

I myself bear the injury of a shot-wound on my chest. The eminent leader of the revolution (Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i) suffered as the result of a time bomb that went

off during his speech some years ago. Even in our congregational Friday prayer our enemies blasted time bombs that had been gifted to them by other countries. Those terrorists have even confessed to having done that which they did, but despite that they have received (official) support in the United States, Paris, Iraq and even in Egypt. In Egypt, the same terrorists have a radio station, but there are none of those things in Iran.

If one should be allowed to offer private complaints, then let me tell you that we have a big file of Egypt's aids to the Iraqi Government during the latter's invasion of Iran. But that is not the point. The central point of our contention is the issue of Palestine and the issue of the Camp David and its continuation today.

Q. Mr. President, I would like to have your personal comments on the issue of Salman Rushdie and his book *The Satanic Verses*... Was it a fatwa that was issued by the late Imam Khomeyni (the death sentence passed on Salman Rushdie) or simply a decree?

A. There are two outlooks in that respect. There are people who say it is a decree. But because I was close to Imam Khomeyni and was a student of his for a long time and having been close to him during my (official) work, I judge it to be a fatwa. Of course, the fatwa was not specifically issued by the late imam. It is a fatwa with precedence in the Islamic books. The chapter which discusses this is called "insulting the prophet" (sabbon-nabi). Many Sunni and Shiite jurisprudents, before the time of the late imam, were of the opinion that the person who insults the prophet should be condemned to death. This has been in the books for a long time. The West wanted to make an issue out of it. The West was looking for a pretext for a conflict and they found it. Of course it is not in their interest and it is to their detriment because the Muslims have emotional feelings to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and to his household which has deep roots in their beliefs. Muslims abide by their beliefs, and they also respect and love whoever should defend their beliefs. You know that the fatwa was unanimously supported by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and once we agree that it is a fatwa then no one can repeal the fatwa offered by another person (that is, by a jurisprudent). The person who can repeal a fatwa is the very person that has issued the fatwa, as in every expert judgment.

Some suggest that Iran repeal the fatwa of the late Imam Khomeyni, which is a naive suggestion. How can one person repeal the expert consultation of another expert?

Q. Mr. President, I appreciate the agonies of the Iraq-Iran war, but I ask you isn't it time to open a new chapter. I appreciate the psychological hardship of the post-war period, but the Muslim world and the Arab world is passing through a crucial and dangerous phase.

I think it is time the Arab and Muslim world heal some of their wounds (in relation to Iran's relations with Arab governments).

A. It was agreed to have peace and cooperation with Iraq after the establishment of the ceasefire, and we too, believed that we should let bygones be filed in the archives of the bygone history. As soon as we got ready for cooperation (with Iraq) the issue of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait surfaced, which created a new problem. Obviously during Kuwait's war with Iraq we were not pleased with Kuwait which also supported Iraq (in its war with Iran) but we did not think it fit for a mightier government to occupy a weaker neighbor.

For the time being, too, we continue to believe that we must reach peace with Iraq, but the Iraqi Government is creating stumbling blocks on that road. For example, the issue of Iranian prisoners of war should be eventually solved,. We have evidence of the presence of a substantial number of Iranian POWs in Iraq. But the Iraqi Government does not offer a sensible answer as to their whereabouts. We have heard the voices of our POWs on the radio, or have seen their pictures in the print media, and the International Red Cross has registered their names as POWs. At any rate their status should be finally determined.

Q. Mr President, how do you view the Persian Gulf security? The question of the national security of Iran and Pakistan has its own weight. But I do not seem to fully understand the imports of the phrase 'Persian Gulf security'. Does it mean its isolation (that it must be isolated from the rest of the world?). I would like to have your views on the security problems of the region, since the West is disregarding the people that are living near their resources and thinks of everything in terms only of oil and is not concerned about anything except for oil resources.

A. I think the answer to that question is quite obvious. The security of the Persian Gulf states is the business of the Persian Gulf states. And the best thing to do would be to have sincere relations between ourselves on the basis of mutual trust.... But the point is, it is in the interest of the big powers that there would be conflict in this region so that they would enter this region and maintain their presence.

Q. Whatever happened to the relations between Iran and the Palestinian revolution? One day in 1979-80 I was in Iran and there were also delegations in Iran representing the Palestine Liberation Organization. I recall once in my meeting with the late imam he complained about the position of certain Arab countries, among them Egypt. He questioned if there was anything that the Arabs (Arab governments) might have reasonably expected from Iran. He said the Islamic Republic had destroyed a regime that was opposed to them and that was their enemy. A regime that was an agent of Israel, and that the Islamic government had given their headquarters (former compounds in Tehran of the Zionist Embassy) to the Palestinians.

A. The issue of Palestine has long since been part of the aspirations of our jihad, and continues to be so. We have

always been friend to all those who struggle for the liberation of Palestine and we will continue to feel that way towards them at any future time. We admit that there may be personal tastes and preferences and those discrepancies are acceptable. But the effort for liberating Palestine must be in the same direction. As for the developments in Gaza and Jericho we were not the only party that was kept in the dark. Even their associates (Yasir 'Arafat's associates in the talks with the Zionist regime) said that they had been taken off guards in the talks. I think, as far as I have heard, the Syrians were also involved in the same talks in the United States, and said that the progress of the talks was against previous agreements (between the Syrians and the PLO). Therefore, the development was not acceptable to any person.

Q. Did the PLO send a ranking envoy to offer an explanation why the organization was compelled to agree to it? I have described the agreement solely as a letter of surrender.

A. They did not tell us before the talks. In my meetings with Mr 'Arafat in Indonesia and Senegal I heard otherwise. I thought their plan was simply a tactical one. But why it turned that way, it is probably because of their frustration and their demoralization during the past few years. That sort of trust was missing even among the persons who went to the talks. Eventually it became evident that every participant in the talks was going his own way. They (the PLO) did not offer us absolutely any explanation either before or after the talks.

Q. Mr President, I think the issue (PLO-Zionist accord) has implications for the rest of the Arab world and the Muslim world. In relation to the Arabs the question is threats by Israel, and in addition to the issue of the Palestinian people there is the issue of Qods [Jerusalem] which concerns all Muslims... What is your opinion?

A. As you said the issue of Palestine does not concern only the Palestinians. It concerns all Muslims and especially all the countries of the region.... To the majority of the Muslim peoples the aspirations of Palestinian people is as endeared and crucial as the aspirations of their own country, especially the issue of holy Qods and the al-Aqsa mosque which, you know, no Muslim can forget.

Q. There are people who argue that the balance of power does not allow the Palestinians to have more than they already received. The Palestinians do not have a force of their own nor do they receive aids from Arabs. The Arab world is disarrayed, and the Muslim world is busy defending itself. At any rate, what is your answer to those who [word indistinct] that we did not have an alternative solution?

A. I do not in the least agree with them. The Muslim world is very powerful. We have plenty of resources that enable us to liberate Palestine even without resorting to war. The efforts made during all those years for talks with Israel would probably have borne better results if they were directed at talks between Muslim heads of state. Even though the situation was to continue for a long time in the future, it would have been better than to sign the bill of sale of the entirety of Palestine at the lowest possible price.

Q. I agree with you on the power of the Muslim world, but power does not rest only on resources and potentials. What counts is the political will power that wields those resources, and that uses those resources for its own ends. I witness the universal power of Islam but at the same time I witness the dissaray of the Muslim nations.

Obviously there are resources, but at the same time there is the lack of an Islamic will power. For example, Pakistan and Indonesia, that are among the biggest Muslim countries, are preoccupied with their own problems. Turkey, too, although more powerful than the other two, is treading a different course. Egypt has a different and special conditions, the holy shrines, too, each have their own different condition. Each of the Muslim world countries has different and varied resources and potenials. But, the problem is that those potentials and resources are going stray, without the necessary will power for leading them along a right course. The fact is that this has never to this date been realized.

A. I admit that the idea of generating a mighty will power among the powerful Muslim governments is difficult to achieve, though not impossible. The efforts for odious talks, since Camp David to the present day, would have certainly been fruitful if it were directed towards achieving a relative, thgough not perfect, unity among the Palestinians.

Even now I am certain that even if a few countries such as Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, and Syria agreed on an identical policy for liberating Palestine, they could have created a big power that could not possibly be challenged by any power...

Q. I have talked to common people since my arrival in Tehran, asking them what the Islamic Revolution has offered them. The responses were varied and mainly vague. For example, they said that the decisions to administer the affairs of the state are adopted in the country. My understanding was that the Iranian people now have the feeling that they are the masters of their own destiny. But I would like to hear directly from an Iranian citizen precisely in what manner he has benefited from the Islamic Revolution.

A. If you get to know the new post-revolution generation you will find out that they, both men and women, have a way of life different from what they had during the rule of the shah. As a result of the revolution we have a set of new values that has created a new generation. Obviously, we still have people who are mainly untouched by those values...but the majority have changed.

Q. Mr President, how should the Muslim world approach the newly independent nations of Central Asia. While those nations are Muslims other Muslim states stand unable to help them while Israel is pressing ahead

to establish relations with Kazakhstan. What is the most important question in the area of administration of the affairs of your country in relation to the world?

A. The issue of the newly independent nations in Central Asia that have cut off from the former Soviet Union is an important issue as well as a historical opportunity for the Muslim world. They have been part of a whole entity, and feel much dependent on that whole entity. They were almost like provinces of one country. Their problem is how to graudually eliminate the chains of dependence and what substitutes to find for those links so that will answer their purpose. The raw materials for the products, too, exist in Russia, and many of those countries have even deposited their national money in Russia.... the Muslim world should prepare itself for responding to their needs. Geographically, in that respect, Iran is in a vantage position in comparison with the rest of the Muslim world.

Q. What help can Iran, as a single country, offer those countries?

A. We can offer them accesss to other countries which we are now in the process of doing. We are offering them access to the rest of the world by way of land, sea and air. We can meet their consumption needs. Iran can both offer them what they need as well as buy products from those countries which they now sell very cheaply to Russia, such as cotton, meat, and even oil and gas and many other items. They also have a lot of needs in the field of education. They do not have the technical know-how of the craft of statesmanship such as the customs services or banking.

Q. For the time being propaganda campaigns against Iran continue which have certain suggestions about the nuclear, chemical or missile capacity of Iran. They say the regional countries are running in an arms race.

A. This is not what we have in mind, and we are not asking them to offer us those (military) products. We maintain that in that kind of race we cannot possibly be the winning side, so we have thought it fit to eliminate that type of race.

Q. How about the issue of the new world order and the emergence of a uni-polar power system? Will it exist?

A. The U.S. is after creating a uni-polar world. It is the responsibility of the world to make sure such thing will not happen. Obviously, the developments in the past few years have been proof of the incapacity of the United States in that area. The main issue for us is the Persian Gulf in which I think an atmosphere of friendship between the regional countries and the Islamic Republic should prevail, and last forever in the future. Obviously, we witness unkind acts by our neighbors, but we try to ignore those acts. As the common saying in Arabic goes, in their behavior with us they feel like they are lions, but when it is time for war they are timid.

Q. What do you mean by unkind acts on the part of your neighbors?

A. Those (governments) who do not deal with the main issues shout too loud when they try to speak with us. Their main plight is the issue of Palestine, but they try to suggest that their main problem is their problem with Iran.

The fact is that Iran could well be the most actual threat to Israel. In order to wipe away the real threat against Israel, the Zionist entity has tried to suggest to the regional countries that Iran is posing a threat to them. We should do away with that kind of mentality, that kind of propaganda that has been magnified by the propaganda machinery of the arrogant world must be discontinued, since in reality iran is their true friends.

Obviously, there are other issues such as that of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Somalia and Kashmir. The problems in those countries are also our own problems and they take a certain amount of our time and resources. It is painful for us also to see the problems of the people in Iraq and Lebanon.

Group Protests Rushdie's Honorary MIT Degree

LD3011053693 Tehran IRNA in English 1937 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—The Scientific Society of Iran's Amir-Kabir Industrial University sent a protest letter to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S., against its conferring of an honorary doctorate on sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie.

The society expressed regret at the awarding of a degree to the Indian-born Rushdie whose sacrilegious work *The Satanic Verses* has insulted the sanctities of about 1.5 billion Muslims around the world.

Such an act is a mockery of academic values and is bound to damage the reputation of the Massachusets institute as a center for science and technology, the letter read.

The apostate writer recently made a trip to the U.S. from his hiding in Britain and is reported to have briefly met American President Bill Clinton in Washington.

Rushdie was sentenced to death by the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, on 13 February 1989, according to Islamic laws on apostacy, a few days after his blasphemous book spilled Muslim blood in India and Pakistan.

Foreign Ministry Demands Return of Hijacked Plane

LD2911204693 Tehran IRNA in English 2019 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Iran today demanded the return of the hijacked passenger plane together with passengers, crew and the hijackers.

The Foreign Ministry here summoned the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran and demanded the return of the Fokker Friendship in a note, press department of the Ministry announced.

Referring to the principles of anti-terrorist campaign and the 1970 Hauge Convention against hijacking, to which both Iran and Iraq are signatories, the note demanded the return of the plane, her passengers and crew as well as the hijackers.

The plane, chartered by the Iranian Oil Ministry, was en route from Gachsaran to Ahvaz-Abadan, Khuzestan province, when it was hijacked by the terrorist Mujahideen [Mojahedin-e] Khalq Organization (MKO), and taken to Iraq earlier today.

Ministry Spokesman Comments

LD3011105193 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA—Passengers of the Iranian hijacked plane were transferred from Basra to Baghdad Tuesday [30 November] following efforts made by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

A Fokker Friendship F-27 passenger plane with 38 passengers and crew on board was hijacked en route from Gachsaran to Abadan-Ahvaz in southern Iran and was taken to Basra, Iraq, yesterday.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi told IRNA here today that all the passengers are in good health and officials at the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad have made arrangements to meet them and offer them medical services.

Mohammadi said Iranian charge d'affaires in Iraq Mohammad Kazem Tabatabaei in cooperation with Iraqi authorities are trying to provide facilities for the passengers and make arrangements for their return to Iran.

Velayati, Hamas Delegation Discuss Palestinian Issue

LD2911213393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, who arrived in Tehran on Sunday afternoon at the head of a delegation from the leadership of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement of Palestine, met Foreign Minister Velayati on 29 November. At the meeting he described the current developments in the region and the Hamas stances.

Referring to the 'Arafat-Israel agreement, Musa Abu-Marzuq stressed: This compromise will not solve the basic problem, which is the occupation of Palestine and the usurpation of the legitimate rights of its people. It is therefore doomed to failure. He added: The vast majority of enlightened Arabs oppose that agreement.

He also emphasized the fundamental stance of the Hamas movement, which is to continue its resistance and stand up against the Zionist regime until the liberation of the occupied lands.

At the meeting Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, a member of the political office and the official spokesman of Hamas, said that after the signing of that disgraceful agreement, we have come to Iran to hold talks with our dear brothers in addition to reviewing the current situation in the region.

He added: The Palestinian nation is fighting today not only to attain its usurped rights but also to defend the whole of the Muslim world.

At the meeting our country's foreign minister described Iran's viewpoints. Referring to pressure brought to bear by certain countries to make Iran change its stance on the defense of the legitimate rights of the Muslim people of Palestine, he said: The fundamental stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran on this issue is constant and unalterable. Undoubtedly, such disgraceful solutions will lead nowhere. We are certain that, by relying on Islam and continuing their struggle, the people of Palestine will attain all their rights.

Velayati on Central Asia, Regional Issues

NC2911121793 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Nov 93 p 11

[An "incomplete interview" with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by AL-SAFIR Chief Editor Talal Salman in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [Salman] It is clear that the United States and other states are putting pressure on and surrounding Iran and that the political and economic blockade is tightening around Iran the revolution. These states are probably employing some difficult domestic conditions. Is this diagnosis true in principle?

[Velayati] Iran is certainly coming under pressure and being subjected to a type of blockade. The reason is clear. To express it in one sentence: The reason is that Iran wants to remain independent. This is intolerable to those whose interests lie in imposing their control on the region for two reasons:

The first has to do with Iran itself, with its unique geographic and political location. The Western states that want to expand the scope of their interests believe that Iran should not maintain its capabilities and its independent decisionmaking.

The second thing is that if Iran succeeds, it will be an example for others to follow. A quick look at Iran's map will show how it looks from a geopolitical point of view. [end Velayati]

A large map of Iran and the surrounding states was hanging on the wall behind him. He turned to the map, using it to illustrate his response.

[Velayati] This is Iran. This is Central Asia and the Caucasus. This is Turkey and the Arab world, then Pakistan and India. And this is Afghanistan. Iran occupies a location that overlooks many of the world's sensitive regions. [end Velayati]

Dr. Velayati stood facing the map, and we stood with him, observing the course of the political movement across the geographic terrain and the borders between states that had fought each other or merged together in a common history.

[Velayati] There are reports and information indicating that the oil reserves in the Caspian Sea basin, Caucasus, and Central Asia are enormous and that these reserves are comparable to those of the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. This enhances the importance and sensitivity of the matter.

Culturally speaking, Iran has the willingness and the capabilities to once again become a center and a starting point for the revival and restoration of Islamic values and civilization.

[Salman] This is true, but Iran is in a more critical situation. The "Desert Storm" has blown through Iraq and the region, bringing all its destructive repercussions along with it. The American onslaught continues. It is targeting Iran, as well as the Arabs. Moreover, the U.S. troops now have bases around you here. How much has this affected domestic conditions in Iran, as well as its political approach at the foreign level?

[Velayati] It is absolutely not true that the different world states submit to the American will and fulfill it without argument. The simplest example could be found in the recent summit meeting of the seven industrialized states. Germany and Japan held completely different views from those of the United States. The positions France and Germany take on Iran are clearly different from that of the United States.

Moreover, our relations with the Central Asian states and the Caucasus have crystallized and have been following a good course since President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to these states. We found that these states are all keen to establish good relations with Iran. They believe that such a relationship serves some of their strategic interests, although the United States and the Israelis have done their utmost to destroy these relations and have warned these states against consolidating their ties with us.

[Salman] What do you have to offer to these poor, weak, and relatively backward countries that require huge potential to secure their needs? Isn't there some exaggeration in depending on traditional religious ties in light of Iran's economy?

[Velayati] We don't depend only on historical and ideological ties, but say that if these countries want to emerge from the economic, political, and geographical deadlock, they should cooperate with Iran. We are in an excellent geographical position that makes us their quickest and best gateway to the world.

These countries traditionally had a way to the outside world across Russia and they all now search for an alternative. The map shows there is no better substitute for Iran and we have actually begun to work in this respect. This is not mere talk. If you seek reassurance on that you may travel to the border region and see some aspects of cooperation. There are long lines of buses and trucks that ferry people and goods from here to there and vice versa.

Azerbaijan stated that Iran was its most important economic partner after Russia last year. Work is in progress to increase transport between us and them, including the development of land and rail routes, building new bridges, and repairing old ones, and we have actually made progress in this field. Maritime transport has also begun between us and these countries and we now have regular flights into the capitals of three of these countries. Flights to the remaining capitals will begin soon.

If you want to travel by air from Iran to Turkmenistan, you will not find a seat easily. Besides, these countries are not poor and I would like to mention some figures and statistics to you. Uzbekistan produces 4 million tons of cotton annually and is regarded as the world's fourth cotton producer. It also produces 70 million tons of gold. Kazakhstan produces 27 million tons of wheat and 100 million tons of coal. Turkmenistan produces 1.4 million tons of wheat. Kyrgyzstan produces much more electricity than its domestic consumption. It has a manmade lake containing 17 billion cubic feet of water reserves, which gives it great capability to produce electricity. We have agreed to purchase electricity from them.

[Salman] But these are communist achievements.

[Velayati] Communist or not, these countries are not poor. In Turkmenistan, they dug a 100-km water canal from the River Jayhun, or Amu Darya, which approaches the Caspian Sea. The amount of water flowing in this canal is approximately 70 percent of all the water of Shatt al-'Arab. Through this canal, they developed the al-Khawarizm Desert to which they restored the old Turkish name Karakom Desert. Its Islamic name is Khawarizm. Azerbaijan also has a lot of water.

[Velayati] Of course, you will notice that these countries have no way to the outside world except across Iran.

[Salman] Why not across Turkey?

[Velayati] To go to Turkey, they must pass through Iran. We are cooperating with Turkey. If they want to take goods to Turkey, we don't object, but Iran remains the main link.

[Salman] But this requires massive investments because the materials available in these countries are mostly raw materials.

[Velayati] This is not a problem. They can sell the raw materials. Turkmenistan has the highest quality colored cotton in the world, and they sell it on world markets at $1.40 cent per kilo. In Uzbekistan, they have gold and wheat. They sell their wheat at prices cheaper than Australian wheat. In Azerbaijan, they sell oil. We buy Azeri oil in the northern areas and sell our oil through the Persian Gulf.

[Salman] Iran is not in a good economic situation. Iran's debts total approximately $30 billion. There are many Turkish goods in Iranian markets, and the cigarettes consumed in Iran are imported from the United States. Iran is not such an advanced industrial country that it is able to help by making huge investments. On the political side, Russia continues to try to assimilate these countries politically and economically. Also, Turkey, backed by the United States and most Western nations, seek to be the sponsor [al- mu'tamadah] of some of these Turkish-speaking countries. So, there are other strong countries, including big powers, competing with Iran.

[Velayati] The world has never been devoid of rivalry and challenges. In the past, rivalry led to armed conflicts, but today it leads to informational, political, and economic strifes. This is natural because any country that wants to be active should take its rivals into consideration. As for your remark that Iran is a debtor nation, I would like to ask if there is any country free of debts. Turkey certainly has more debts. Two years ago, in 1991, and as part of the first five-year development plan, we spent approximately $35 billion on construction and development projects. Last year, we spent a little bit less. We will continue this policy. During the defunct shah's reign, we were accustomed to having power cuts several times a day. At present, the power produced is double that produced during the shah's era. In the days of the shah, Iran generated 7,000 megawatts. Now it generates 14,000 megawatts. We no longer have power cuts. In fact, we export 40 megawatts to the Azeri republic of Nakhichevan. Approximately 800,000 students are currently enrolled at our universities, four times more than before the revolution.

As for wheat production, we are scheduled to attain self-sufficiency during the second Five-Year Plan. Although our population is steadily increasing, our wheat imports are gradually decreasing. During the shah's era, Iran's annual iron and steel production was less than 1 million tons. At present, our annual production exceeds 4 million tons. Last year, we exported $500-million worth of Iranian steel. I think it would be useful to visit some of our plants. At present, if Iranian products in the Islamic republics in Central Asia are not more plentiful than Turkish ones, they are not less. We export thousands of tractors to Libya every year. If you visit the Azeri capital, you will see Iranian-made buses everywhere in the city. When you see Turkish products in Iranian markets, this does not mean that we are incapable of producing similar goods in Iran. Our markets are open to foreign products so that the Iranian products will not govern the prices. We want prices to be governed by supply and demand instead of using punishment. Most commodities essential to daily life are produced in Iran—from television sets, radios, and electric appliances to many other goods.

[Salman] But why does the citizen still prefer foreign products?

[Velayati] We know the quality of our products is not as good as Japanese products for example, but we are trying to establish modern industry and renovate old factories, including car factories, mineral plants, and a petrochemical plant.

Iranian nonoil exports are three times more than they were during the time of the shah. Our exports last year exceeded 3 billion [currency not specified]. That rate is sustained. We use oil in petrochemical industries and oil exports increased by 15 percent.

[Salman] Have you organized your ties with the Central Asian republics without arousing Moscow's sensitivity?

[Velayati] Our decision was that we did not want a clash with Moscow. Our relations with Moscow are good. After all, we are neighbors through the Caspian Sea. I might travel to Moscow soon.

[Salman] What about Turkey? Ozal discussed a Turkish world from Bosnia to China. Clouds sometimes marred your relations with Turkey. Have you eliminated sensitivities and reached a particular formula or does each side try to gain at the expense of the other depending on historic or religious ties?

[Velayati] I believe there is an acceptable level of competition between us and Turkey. We try to coexist well. I agree that with the collapse of the Soviet Union some unrealistic visions governed our approach at first. But everyone woke up to the reality and abandoned unrealistic concepts. As I said, competition exists everywhere. But it is only logical to make that competition peaceful and reasonable. We do not try to destroy Turkey's relations with these republics. In return, we expect the same of the Turkish side. We were the first to encourage the republics to join the Asian countries' Economic Cooperation Organization, which held its first meeting in Tehran. If this proves anything, it is that we are convinced of the need to establish good cooperation with these republics.

[Salman] Since the war is an economic one, Iran's enemies will try to surround it economically and economic pressure will build up. Attempts will be made to ruin or obstruct your development and reconstruction plans. Some neighboring states, including Turkey, might be used to restrict the area within which you move economically.

[Velayati] We have no major problem when it comes to our economic development plans. What we achieved in rebuilding the economy was far beyond the energies and resources available to us. Unlike some states, we have no problem when it comes to the transfer of technology and techniques. Some states are linked with the West by strong, friendly ties and still are no more advanced than we are technically. I don't agree with you that they are more advanced than we are. If they are advanced in some fields, we are advanced in others. The whole world knows this. They use negative propaganda against us in some fields. The negative aspects aside, it shows that Iran has acquired a level of success that provoked hostile powers and made them wage their war against it.

No regional state, oil-producing or otherwise, can compete with the Iranian oil industry in the contemporary world. This is one of the significant industries constituting the base for several world industries. We prospect for and export oil on and offshore without help from any foreign state and relying on our own capabilities. We provide some states, like Libya, with our oil expertise. When Khonsari was our ambassador to Libya, the Libyans handed the keys to Iranian experts and put them in control of the major oil industries.

[Salman] Since the revolution, there has been disorder in the Islamic Republic's relations with most Arab countries—with the regimes, that is. There is semipermanent tension with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over three islands, and there is an open crisis with Saudi Arabia. Recently, there was talk, which later faded, about a probable meeting between President Hashemi- Rafsanjani and King Fahd, and there have been attempts to repair relations with Iraq.

Let us discuss the Gulf area first. Why the insistence on exaggerating the islands problem and marring relations with the Arabs? It is no secret that most Arabs believe that Iran is the aggressor. Wouldn't it have been better if the problem was settled as soon as it began?

[Velayati] Our position has been the following: We have made great efforts to resolve this unnecessary and artificial problem with the UAE. I believe that no one, on either side, needs such tension. As for me, I have taken numerous positive steps, and I have enjoyed the full support of the Iranian regime and its leadership in everything I have done.

After the problem emerged, I met with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah in Jakarta and arranged for him to meet with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In Pakistan, I met Shaykh Hamdan, the son of [UAE President] Shaykh Zayid, and visited the UAE at his invitation. A few weeks ago, I met again with Rashid 'Abdallah in New York, and we were expecting Shaykh Hamdan to visit, but he abruptly postponed his visit because of a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, which was justified in making this statement.

I told Rashid 'Abdallah that this issue cannot be raised at all the meetings and that statements of condemnation cannot be issued if you want a solution that is honorable to both parties. If you were seeking a solution, you would not have brought up the crisis at every meeting at various levels—at the Gulf Cooperation Council, at the Arab League, and at every meeting, including the latest one in Damascus.

We are not dumb. We can issue statements, too. If this issue is to be resolved, let us sit and do just that. You asked us in Jakarta to implement the 1971 Agreement, and I telephoned Tehran from Jakarta and sent the Foreign Ministry director general to Abu Musa Island. The director general did in fact arrange some matters concerning the UAE nationals on the island. And while he was in Bander-e 'Abbas on his way back to Tehran, you issued a statement against us. Negotiations and the search for a solution are not conducted like this.

We believe that a third party is interfering to turn the issue into a crisis, especially since similar attempts to undermine draft agreements have occurred.

You should talk to the UAE community there. They are in good situation. We have tried to remove the previous problems and impediments, and the Foreign Ministry has appointed a representative there. He remains there to prevent any problem.

[Salman] Does this mean there is a bilateral authority over the island?

[Velayati] They are represented by a man named Abu-Ghanim. We say that if there is a problem, tell us what it is so that we can sit down and talk it over, even if the matter involves the basic principles of the 1971 Agreement.

[Salman] The problem is over the ownership and sovereignty of these islands.

[Velayati] Our position is based on the 1971 Agreement, according to which there is no problem on our side.

[Salman] But the Iranian Majles has issued a law extending sovereignty inside the Gulf to 200 nautical miles. This means that all the islands are under Iranian sovereignty.

[Velayati] As understood by the Majles, this impression is not true at all and the situation is not so. What has been endorsed relates to the 1982 maritime navigation rights law, which a great number of people approved of and acted accordingly. The Majles only ratified this law.

Some weeks ago, the law was ratified by the UAE. They had misconceptions, and some escalated the situation deliberately. This law on maritime navigation was raised in the Majles years before the problem emerged.

[Salman] Is there any Iranian fear that these islands might be used to harass or attack the Iranian territories?

[Velayati] We are not afraid of this problem, and we know that it is in our and in our neighbors' interest to live together. If the situation there worsens, we will not be the only ones harmed by this tension. If foreigners set foot in this region, those who have less power and less ability to resist will be harmed most. Therefore, it is in no one's interest to increase this tension. It is in the interest of all of us to resolve this problem. We look forward to Shaykh Hamdan's visit and hope this visit will take place as soon as possible.

[Salman] You and the Iraqis exchange visits. Is that part of efforts to normalize relations?

[Velayati] Yes, and to solve pending problems between us and to restore good neighborly relations.

[Salman] Has the time come to establish such ties, and have past differences between completely settled?

[Velayati] We are currently doing this, and we are working to resolve the issue of the POW's and other thorny problems.

[Salman] Won't this revive the Iraqi regime? How do you view these efforts politically, apart from helping the Iraqi people?

[Velayati] Within the framework of UN resolutions, we are not opposed to helping the Iraqi people. Sending humanitarian aid does not conflict with the UN resolutions against Iraq. We are neighbors, and our common border runs for 1,200 km. So why should we have tense and cool ties? We may not agree with certain Iraqi policies and Iraq may not agree with some of our policies, but this should not preclude having good ties as neighbors. We want to reach this state, but, naturally, this is not easy. Both sides should make efforts.

[Salman] Western policy toward Iraq is changing. It looks as if the Western nations have taken all that they want from Iraq and that the score has been settled. They are now trying to polish Saddam's image and to reinstate him in the Arab arena. Is this change in the West's attitude toward Iraq a coincidence?

[Velayati] We have never pursued U.S. policy, neither in Iraq nor anywhere else. After the reconciliation between us and Iraq, we did not sever ties with Iraq as a result of the "Desert Storm" operations. We did not even allow our relations to become tense. We tried to have a long-term vision with regard to Iraq. Our policy is characterized by firmness. Certain countries pursue everchanging policies, and it is known who holds the keys of these countries. Certain countries can be allied today and slander one another tomorrow, which applies to the Arab countries. For example, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and Yemen established the Arab Cooperation Council, but a short time later, Egypt sent its forces to fight Iraq. Attempts at unity begin and end swiftly. This cannot be called politics and cannot be relied on. We tried to make our policy firm, but certain developments are not the result of our policy.

[Salman] I cannot and do not want to defend these regimes. I want, however, to discuss your relations with Saudi Arabia to clarify some ambiguities. There is a vast distance between the famous remark by Khomeyni—"I may forgive Saddam, but I will not forgive Fahd"—and the invitation extended to King Fahd to visit Tehran. Have there been developments that have required drastic changes at this level? Can we discuss the history of relations between the two sides?

[Velayati] What his eminence the departed imam said does not conflict with establishing relations. His eminence the imam said: If we overlook Saddam, we will not overlook King Fahd. He said this after the massacre [of Iranian pilgrims] in Mecca. This does not run counter to the existence of relations. His eminence did not say that we should not establish ties with Saudi Arabia. Regarding the United States, he said this frankly, and the same applies to Israel. But not Saudi Arabia.

[Salman] What about your current ties with Saudi Arabia?

[Velayati] They are OK. As for King Fahd's visit, there was an initial agreement on it, but the date has not been set.

[Salman] It would be curious to see King Fahd in Iran.

[Velayati] Anyway, the nature of relations among governments in this age may dictate such unique and curious specters. When one country has relations with another, it does not mean that their policies should be identical.

[Salman] I am asking about the objective basis of such relations and whether they have to do with good neighborliness and common interests? Or do they signal changes in policies in Saudi Arabia or Iran?

[Velayati] Iran is an Islamic country, and so is Saudi Arabia. Holy Mecca and Medina are in Saudi Arabia. In addition, we are neighbors and have common interests, particularly in the areas of oil and its production and prices. We exercise common activities in the Islamic Conference Organization. These are all common denominators that link us to Saudi Arabia and dictate that we promote our ties. This is our policy [end Velayati]

The dialogue was interrupted here by the arrival of a Brazilian minister. Velayati promised to continue it later. We are waiting for this promise to be fulfilled and for the completion of this interesting conversation with the doctor [reference to Velayati, who is a physician] of Iranian diplomacy.

850,000 Afghan Refugees Return Home 'Voluntarily'

LD2911175393 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Saveh, Central Prov., Nov. 29, IRNA—So far 850,000 Afghan refugees have returned home voluntarily under the supervision of the United Nation High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Deputy Director

General of the Expatriates Affairs Department Mohammad-Reza Rostami told IRNA here today.

He said at the orders of the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Afghan refugees are not compelled to leave Iran.

Rostami said that so far 6,000 Afghan nationals living illegally in Saveh had been identified and given temporary cards.

He put the number of Afghan refugees in Iran at 1,900,000 and expressed hope that they would come back home with happy memories after 14 years.

Some 3,000,000 foreign nationals are currently living in Iran, he said, adding "every international organization admits that Iran has been one of the most successful countries in hosting refugees and expatriates.

Commentary Assesses Refugee Situation

LD2811141193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1104 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran and World Refugees"]

[Text] According to a report by UNESCO, of 19 million refugees in the world, 4.5 million live in Iran. Thus, our country comes first in the world from the point of view of the number refugees. That is because due to the continuation of tension along the borders of Azerbaijan, the number of refugees from that country emigrating to Iran has increased and Iran has had no choice but to secure the necessary resources for those refugees without any effective cooperation from the world community and international authorities.

The main reason for the innumerable refugees flooding our country is the occurrence of numerous conflicts near Iran's borders.

A clarification of the factors contributing to homelessness naturally indicates who has the main responsibility for responding to the needs of refugees. For many years now, internal war has continued in Afghanistan and, despite the withdrawal of foreign forces from that country, fighting has not ended. But it is clear that the first wave of Afghan refugees appeared as a result of intervention by foreign forces. According to some figures, during the Afghan war, 3 million refugees entered Iran from that country. Regarding Azerbaijan, the inactivity of international organizations regarding the continuation of the war resulted in an escalation in the clashes and the creation of many refugees. Also, in our country's western borders Iraqi refugees have entered the country via two northwest and southwest areas.

In all those cases, direct intervention by foreign forces or the the silence of international forums regarding aggression and atrocity has resulted in people fleeing their homes. But those who are the root cause of the atmosphere of insecurity for the peoples of the countries neighboring Iran must themselves answer for the consequences of their own direct intervention or incorrect policies.

Moreover, international organizations, especially the United Nations, must secure the necessary resources for looking after war refugees. Iran, compared with other states hosting refugees in the region, has enjoyed the least amount of international assistance.

We recall that during the assault by the Iraqi Army against the Kurds in the north of that country, the greatest number of refugees sought asylum in Iran. But the main part of the global relief aid and propaganda was directed to Iraq's northern neighbor, which had settled the refugees in border areas and strongly prevented the refugees entering deep into its territory.

Iran, in any case, has repeatedly sought to attract the attention of the world community to secure the requirements needed by the refugees and the necessary efforts for returning them home. In this regard, there are world organizations and establishments that must pave the way for the realization of those aims. In other words, beside alleviating the day to day needs of the refugees, preventing foreign intervention in the internal affairs of states and implementing regulations which prevent aggression are a priority. When those realities are attended to, the refugee problem will also be resolved and the burden of looking after refugees and seeing to their needs will not be put on a specific country.

Egypt's Use of Force Against 'Islamists' Scored

LD2711140593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The car bomb explosion on the route taken by the vehicle carrying the Egyptian prime minister—a few seconds after the vehicle had passed—demonstrates the severity of the military hostility and political confrontation between the Egyptian government and its Islamist opponents. One person was killed as a result of the explosion and several wounded. It is the third time that a high-ranking Egyptian official has been attacked by the Islamists in the past 18 months. Earlier, the information and interior ministers had come under fire by opposition groups. Following those operations 100 individuals were arrested on suspicion of being implicated. The Egyptian Islamic Jihad group officially accepted responsibility for those operations, and described them as a response to the death sentences issued by the Egytian military courts against Islamists.

At the moment, the continuation of violence and military confrontation between the Egyptian Government and its opposing Islamic groups overshadows the country's political scene, and the Egyptian Government, by giving priority to security issues, is concentrating most of its efforts in that direction.

The attempts by the Egyptian leaders to control the wave of Islamism by military means not only has failed to check that growing social phenomenon, but has entered the state into a cycle of violence and has practically paralyzed the main political and economic sectors of the state, particularly in the domestic arena, and made them grind to a halt.

Although the Egyptian society is facing an unprecedented economic crisis, and the extent of social problems has an expanding trend, the Mubarak administration has placed its priority on severe military suppression of its opponents. At times it submits some of them to the execution squad and sends some others to prison. The Islamic groups, seeing all avenues of peaceful campaigning closed to them, and witnessing no other treatment from the opposite side but gunfire and torture, have resorted to arms, and follow the chain of violence which the Egyptian government has started.

The bloody events in Egypt, the assassination of high-ranking Egyptian officials and the sacrifice of many innocent people, should have caused the Egyptian authorities to come to the conclusion that the use of force does not solve any problem and that a continuation of this connflict cannot stimulate the people's sympathy toward the Egyptian Government. While a political solution can bring a peaceful resolution to the problem that much nearer, resorting to military solutions is not considered to be a farsighted measure. An attempt by Egyptian leaders to attain political legitimacy and to bring the opposition groups into the decision process can reduce the inclination to use force and violence. Undoubtedly Egypt's withdrawal from under the weight of the ignominy of the Camp David compromise accord—which is the main source of that country's political problems—and ending the policy of subordination to America—which is considered to be the source of most of its economic difficulties—is considered to be a crucial and noteworthy step toward the resolution of that country's problems.

Commentary Cautions Kuwait on Pacts With 'Big Powers'

NC3011080793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Reports indicate that the defense ministers of Kuwait and the Russian Federation have signed a military pact according to which Moscow will defend Kuwait in the event of any attack against it. Earlier, Kuwait signed similar pacts with the United States, Britain, and France. Within the framework of the joint military pact with Washington, several hundred American military personnel were stationed in Kuwait while a variety of arms and war material are being stored there.

Kuwait's inclination toward signing military pacts with big powers is rooted in the Iraqi attack. Now, with Iraq's renewed territorial claims on Kuwait, Kuwaiti statesmen are growing more concerned.

But why has Kuwait signed a military pact with Russia, which, since the former Soviet Union disintegrated, has adopted an introverted policy? Political observers attribute the Kuwaiti statesmen's behavior to their lack of complete trust in the West. During the oil war, the crushing of Iraq's aggression became a joint objective for the Kuwaiti and Washington leaders, but this U.S. behavior actually stemmed from its national interests, which were put to work toward those of the Kuwaiti Government. But if Kuwait loses its position in America's macrostrategy or if a stance against Kuwait can bear more fruit for America, it will behave differently.

America's stance in the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis and the repeated remarks by the White House secretary of state that his country doesn't interfere because it has no interests in the area made the Kuwaiti statesmen realize that America has not signed a fraternity pact with anyone in its foreign policy and that in confronting aggression internationally, it is not faithful to a stable set of moral principles, but always regards its own interests. In view of this reality, by signing military pacts with countries like Russia, Britain, and France, which are not free of charge, the Kuwaiti officials are trying to ensure their security in respect of Iraq's repetitive claims.

Political analysts believe that while the small Kuwaiti Government's efforts to ensure its security, stopping short of threatening the security of others, are legitimate, Kuwaiti statesmen should think more carefully about the consequences of their security behavior. Kuwait and other Persian Gulf countries' security could be ensured through other means. Regional detente as well as understanding and cooperation among all the Persian Gulf countries will remove the threat of aggression and of the emergence of any type of military conflict in the region. The signing of military pacts with international powers is coupled with various threats. These pacts can at any moment become a pretext for international powers to interfere in Kuwait's internal affairs or to enter into a conflict with Kuwait's neighbors to ensure their own interests, in which case it is the Kuwaiti Government that will bear the consequences.

Indonesian President Ends Visit; Joint Communique Issued

LD2611215793 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 26 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—A joint communique issued here today at the end of the state visit of Indonesian President Suharto said the four-day visit opened a new chapter in promoting and strengthening the friendly bilateral relations between the two countries.

In their meetings the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Indonesian President Suharto reviewed the mutually beneficial relations between the two countries and explored ways and

means for their further promotion in the bilateral as well as regional contexts and also with a view to the strengthening of the bonds of Islamic solidarity.

The communique said the two presidents welcomed the new agreements between the two countries which would pave the way for expansion of trade and economic relations, including joint investment projects. They further stressed the promotion of scientific and technical cooperation between various agencies of the two countries, considering it a means to further strengthen bilateral relations.

They noted with satisfaction the outcome of the second session of the joint commission held 1-4 November 1993, and agreed to direct the committees concerned to take concrete steps for implementation.

Suharto noted the economic and social progress of Islamic Iran and stated Indonesia's readiness to continue to cooperate in the current development programs of the Islamic Republic.

Hoj. Rafsanjani noted the socio-economic achievements of Indonesia and its efforts for progress and development and expressed Iran's willingness to cooperate in these endeavours for mutual benefit. The two agreed to exchange experience in these efforts.

The two presidents considered the establishment of contact and cooperation between their respective regional organisations, ECO and ASEAN, as fruitful and positive.

Besides Iran, the 10-member Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) groups Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Indonesia for its part is a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), whose other member states are Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Brunei.

The Iran-Indonesia joint communique, in noting the current efforts and developments in the Middle East, underlined the necessity of full restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as the main requirement for stability in this region.

The two countries exchanged views on the latest developments in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Central Asia, the Caucasus, Somalia and southern Africa, and sressed the necessity for peaceful settlement of issues pertaining to these situations.

The two sides expressed grave concern at the continuation of the tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina and stressed the imperative of restoration of territorial integrity and sovereignty in the Balkans. They emphasized the need to prevent and combat the genocide against Bosnian Muslims and renewed their call to the United Nations Security Council to take all necessary steps, including the lifting of the unjustified arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Rafsanjani expressed appreciation to Suharto for his important and constructive role as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement and for his leadership in reinvigorating the movement.

The two sides expressed their resolve to strengthen the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in international affairs. They stressed that the movement should adopt policies and methods in order to face the new challenges arising from the monumental changes in the world.

The two countries called for greater vitality and creativity in the Non-Aligned Movement for promotion of internaitonal understanding and peace and strengthening the role and relevance of the movement. They expressed their desire to further increase their cooperation in the framework of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Both sides stressed the importance of south-south cooperation, and agreed on the continued need for countries of the south to strengthen their ties in various fields such as trade, technical cooperation, science and technology.

The two sides reiterated the need for the resumption of the north-south dialogue in an atmosphere of mutual respect and partnership.

The two presidents emphasized the need for further solidarity and closer coordination among member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). In this regard, they agreed to take joint initiatives in further utilizing the available resources within the organization to promote cooperation among members in various fields.

They also rejected the application of double standards and the allegations of human rights as a conditionality for development assistance or as an instrument of political pressure.

The two also reviewed efforts for a comprehensive global disarmament, and underlined the importance of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and expessed support for a world free of all nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. They called on all countries to make their respective regions nuclear free zones.

Hoj. Rafsanjani and President Suharto emphasized the need for efforts to protect the global environment, without inhibiting the development process of developing countries.

Suharto extended an invitation to his Iranian counterpart to make a state visit to Indonesia, which was accepted with appreciation by the hojjat ol-Eslam. The date is to be fixed at a mutually convenient future occasion.

Significance of Visit Assessed

LD2711211593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] The Indonesian President Mr. Suharto wound up his trip to Iran on Friday November 26 following four days of meetings and talks with the Iranian senior officials.

In a joint statement, which was released on the same occasion in Tehran and Jakarta, the presidents of both countries favored the recent agreements reached in the commercial, economic, and political fields and laid emphasis on upgrading the scientific and technical cooperation between various institutions and organizations as a means of further solidifying the reciprocal ties.

In the opinion of experts of political and economic issues, the visit of the Indonesian president to Tehran, which took place for the first time in the wake of the victory of the Islamic revolution, has opened new horizons in the expansion of the two countries relations.

Therefore the results of the trip can be construed as significant in promotional of mutual ties and that of regional cooperation.

The talks between officials of Iran and Indonesia took place in a large scale, including the visit of Mr. Suharto and the leader of the Islamic revolution, which speaks of the attention of the two countries importance they attach which not only include the amount of politico-economic and cultural relations but at the same time cover the regional issues, particularly those of the world of Islam [sentence as heard].

The trip of the Indonesian president and his entourage to Tehran was not confined to a certain limit. Rather, the Iranian president stated at the end of the trip, the visit of the Indonesian president provided a (?certain) opportunity for cooperation and exchange of views by the two countries' officials.

President Rafsanjani, underscoring the fact that the trip of Mr. Suharto to Iran will entail regional and international impacts, explicitly said that the exchange of view can prove to the benefit of the change in Muslims situation.

On the whole the trip of the Indonesian president and his entourage to Tehran was a renewed emphasis laid in the two countries' interest in expanding cooperation between the two big Islamic states.

In addition to the talks conducted by Iran and Indonesia as two Asian states membering the ECO and the ASEAN, each one of which enjoys high potential capacities in terms of economy, it is noteworthy that in case such talks continue they can open a new chapter in the promotion of regional cooperation with Iran and Indonesia's direct participation in it.

Women To Be Admitted To 'All Academic Courses'

LD2811131593 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 28 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Iranian women will be admitted to all academic courses once they pass entrance exams, and there will be no limit in terms of their number in attending courses, the daily KEYHAN reported Saturday [27 November] afternoon. The daily noted that the approval has been recently made by the High Council of Planning at the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

From now on, the daily quoted the approval, female applicants are allowed to take part in entrance exams in all courses and there will be no restriction in this respect. Female students are allowed to attend courses in technical, engineering, basic sciences, arts, medicine, humanities and other applied sciences.

Khamene'i Comments on Role of Women

LD2911161493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution this morning received a group of sisters who specialize in surgery and medicine. He emphasized that women can, under the shadow of Islamic upbringing, achieve the highest grades of learning and spirituality. The esteemed leader considered that the increasing presence of Muslim and religious women in jobs requiring specialization and mastership, was a source of pride and glory to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He graciously stated: Compared to the past, there is not much corruption, fashion-consciousness [mod-gara'i], showing-off, or putting on make-up and incorrect and harmful self-promotion in our Islamic environment and system; a healthy environment has come into being for the development of womens' talents. Today, the atmosphere in society, in universities, and art forums, is a secure one and Muslim and religious women have found the opportunity to display their talents in different fields and to reach higher grades in scholarship and the arts.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i considered that the presence of specialist and Muslim women, in the Islamic society, was Islam and God's will regarding Iranian women and women of the world of Islam. He said: It is vital to have a change in all the academic fields of our society; women should take up any field that attracts their talents and suits them. Half of the talents of the country belong to women and they should fill those spaces that are not closed to them because of their natural and innate limitations.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution considered that the lofty status of the Holy Fatimah Zahra [daughter of Prophet Muhammad]—God's peace be upon her—was an indication of Islam's world view of women. He said:

Housekeeping and running a home, husband, and children is the most natural, innate, and best work for women. However, this does not at all negate womens' capabilities in the arena of learning, in practical and spiritual arenas. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized the need for the presence of Muslim and specialist women in decisionmaking arenas, adding: Our society needs as many women in various medical fields as it does men. The number of women physicians should increase to the point where Iranian women are in a position to seek treatment always from women physicians. [passage omitted]

Deputy Health Minister Comments on AIDS Cases

LD2911114893 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—The total number of Iranians feared to be infected with AIDS virus is estimated at 4,500 to 5,500 of whom 269 have been tested positive, said Deputy Health Minister Huseyn Malekafzali here Sunday [28 November].

Speaking on the occasion of International AIDS Day, November 30, Malekafzali said of the positive group 85 people are sufferring from the disease and 62 have already died. By 1992, some 70 percent of the total AIDS infected people in Iran had been affected due to undergoing blood transfussion and receiving blood contaminated with AIDS virus, imported in 1987, he said.

Malekafzali added that by fall this year, the blood transfusion organization tested over two million people who called on the organization's branches for blood donation. He said the disease is mostly traced in northern parts of the country where blood transfusion is widespread because thalassemia is prevalent, and in south due to neighbouring the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Malekafzali said that according to the estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO), 718,894 cases in 172 countries have been reported to the organization by last June but the real figure is estimated to be around 2.5 million. He noted that according to WHO estimates, the number of affected people would reach 13 million by the end of this century.

Eight million of the infected people are said to be in Africa, 2.5 milion in America, 1.5 million in south and southeast Asia, 500,000 in Europe and 200,000 in the other parts of the world, he said.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' quoting Malekafzali said that the first case of AIDS in Iran dates back to 1987 when a six year old child was diagnosed as being infected by the virus.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Discusses Nuclear, Foreign Policies

JN3011073693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Nov 93 p 5

["Text" of interview with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali by JORDAN TIMES Chief Editor George Hawatimah in Islamabad on 25 November]

[Text] Question: It seems that India is willing to engage Pakistan in a dialogue towards the resolution of the Kashmir problem. Given the record of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in thrashing out the Simla accord in the 70s with India against all odds, do you believe that the decision by the governments of India and Pakistan to resume bilateral talks at the foreign secretary level in accordance with the Simla agreement would promote a purposeful and meaningful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute?

A. Pakistan and India had agreed in the Simla agreement of July 1972 to discuss further the modalities and arrangements for the establishment of durable peace and normalisation of relations. These included, inter alia, a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir. However, since the signing of the Simla agreement India had refused to negotiate the status of Jammu and Kashmir saying it was an integral part of its sovereign territories. The situation in Kashmir since early 1990 and the gross violations of human rights committed by the Indian forces have highlighted the inescapable reality that unless this core issue is addressed meaningfully, it would be impossible for the South Asian region to have durable peace and stability. We hope that the Indian government would ease repression in the state and agree to evolving a just and lasting negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

Q. What were the reasons that compelled you to withhold the tabling of a resolution on the human rights situation in the Jammu and Kashmir region at the U.N. General Asembly?

A. As you very well know, the gross violations of human rights in the Indian-held Kashmir has been a matter of grave concern to us and of increasing concern for the whole international community. Pakistan had been actively consulting with the member states to the U.N. with a view to introducing a resolution on the human rights situation in Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir at the current session of the U.N. General Assembly. A large number of friendly and Islamic countries had agreed to support the resolution.

However, a number of friendly countries urged us to avail the Indian offer of bilateral talks. These friends also advised the Indian government to agree to a comprehensive and purposeful dialogue with Pakistan to settle the core issue of Kashmir which has embittered relations between our two neighbourly countries and represents a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

After having consulted these countries and in view of clarifications received from the government of India, the government has accepted the Indian offer of bilateral talks including substantive discussions concerning a solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at the foreign secretary level. We have taken this decision in good faith and in the interest of the peace and for the improvement of the human rights situation. We have, thus, decided to hold back our resolution. We expect our friends to closely monitor the human rights in Indian-held Kashmir and persuade India to ameliorate the human rights situation in Kashmir and allow international humanitarian relief and human rights organisations to visit the area.

Q: In view of the fact that your country had a marked absence of democracy for several decades after its establishment and that this situation has had its negative repercussions on economic developments, how do you view your priorities and concerns of your people over living standards and cost of living?

A: One of the primary objectives of the government is to enhance substantially the socio-economic well-being of the people as envisioned for an Islamic welfare state. The main thrust will be on improving the quality of life. This we intend to attain by raising the per capita income through an annual average GDP growth of seven per cent coupled with efforts to restrain population growth.

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- Encourage broader participation of all people in the development process and a more equitable sharing of the benefits;
- Generate additional employment opportunities by expanding productive avenues through private initiative as well as government policies and programmes;
- Alleviate poverty through an integrated approach of income generation, well dispersed access to social and community services, human resources development, extension of physical infrastructure, population welfare and special programmes for targeted groups and areas;
- Ensure greater self-reliance, in particular in food;
- Energy, defence production, public finance and external balance;
- Conserve natural resources and ensure protection to the environemnt;
- Promote good governance in state as well as public affairs; and
- Ensure macroeconomic stability and discipline.

Q: Pakistan is holding out against setting up ties or contacts with Israel at a time the long-time Arab enemies of the Jewish state are moving towards relations with it. What is the rationale behind this position? What are the parameters that guide your country and government vis-a-vis relations with Israel?

A: Pakistan has not devised any immediate plans for recognition of Israel. We feel that it is not in the general interest of the Islamic countries to recognise Israel unless there is substantial progress on the implementation of the PLO-Israel accords and on the issue of Jerusalem.

The PLO-Israel agreement and the mutual recognition between the two sides, does not mean that a final settlement has been reached. We have welcomed these accords as a first step towards a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement. We believe that there is need to address all the issues that are of international concern, particularly the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements and the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. A final settlement, we hope, would conform to internatioanl obligations on these issues.

As chairman of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Pakistan is consulting with other members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) on this issue. We will await developments and keep the situation under review.

Q: Pakistan supported the Afghan resistance throughout the 80s, and now it seems that the Afghan factions themselves are unable to work out a modus vivendi among themselves. In view of Pakistan's involvement with the Afghan cause, do you believe that you could contribute to resolving the differences of the Afghan factions?

A: Pakistan has an abiding interest in peace and stability in Afghanistan. While adhering to the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference and mutual benefit, we would do everything within our means to promote conciliation and consensus among Afghans and help them in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of their country.

Q: Pakistan's involvement in Somalia has cost it many lives of its own soldiers, but you have not stepped up from deeper engagement. How do you envisage the course of events in Somalia and, apart from the direct military involvement, how do you view Pakistan's role as a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in trying to settle the conflict in Somalia, a fellow OIC member?

A. Pakistan contributed its forces to Somalia in response to a request by the international community through the Security Council of the U.N. to help restore law and order in Somalia. This decision has been fully endorsed by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Pakeistan has always enjoyed close and brotherly relations with Somalia. We had assisted the Somali people in gaining independence. We supported them in the struggle against foreign aggression. We had also given generous assistance to the Somalis when their country was afflicted by drought and famine.

Our participation in the U.N. peacekeeping operation is a manifestation of our earnest desire to assist the international community in general, and the Somalis in particular, to restore peace, stability and tranquility in that unfortunate country. Our objective is to create

conditions whereby the Somalia people, currently facing the twin scourge of civil war and hunger, will be able to resume their normal lives. We are pursuing a noble mission for reestablishing peace and saving the lives of thouands of people in a fraternal Muslim country.

Pakistan supports the efforts of the regional African countries for the settlement of the Somali crisis. We fully support the implementation of the Addis Ababa accord. However, its various provisions relating to security, disarmament, political reconciliation and economic reconstruction can only be implemented if all factions join the reconciliation process being coordinated by the U.N. Pakistan is consulting with all interested governments and the U.N. in achieving the objectives of the Addis Ababa accord.

Q: Pakistan's refusal to endorse the Non-Proliferation Treaty has cost it much needed American assistance at a time when it needs all the help it could get. What are your views on nuclear arms, and how do you explain the continued nuclear activities of Pakistan against loud criticism and accusations that it is weapon-oriented at a time when the world trend is towards disarmament in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union?

A: Pakistan does not oppose the NPT. We have never refused to endorse the NPT. However, as a matter of principle we cannot accept discriminatory treatment vis-a-vis our neighbour India. In fact, as early as 1979, Pakistan had proposed simultaneous adherence by India and Pakistan to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. In that year we had also proposed that the two countries should simultaneously accept the IAEA safeguards. We have also called for the establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in South Asia and a bilateral/regional nuclear test ban. Regrettably India has taken a negative stance on all these fair and constructive proposals which are aimed at preventing nuclear proliferation in our region.

When the NPT was adopted in the U.N. General Assembly in 1968; Pakistan voted for it. We clarified then that Pakistan would sign the NPT if our neighbour India did so also. Pakistan has always been concerned about India's desire to develop nuclear weapons. These fears were realised when India exploded a nuclear device in 1974. Pakistan continues to maintain a principled position that it will accept any non-proliferation measure that is equitable and non- discriminatory between Pakistan and India. Therefore, if India signs the NPT, Pakistan will do so simultaneously.

On nuclear arms, let me state it categorically that Pakistan fully shares the view that nuclear proliferation would be destablishing and would threaten international peace and security. This is more true after the end of the cold war and the landmark agreements between the U.S. and Russia to reduce their nuclear arsenals. Pakistan has resolutely supported international efforts aimed at achieving complete nuclear disarmament as well as non-proliferation, particularly through the establishment of equitable and non-discriminatory regional non-proliferation regimes.

Our position regarding the U.S. nuclear policy in South Asia is that the Pressler Amendment which has created difficulties in the Pak-U.S. relationship, is a discriminatory law as it applies only to Pakistan and not to India or other countries which are known to be seeking a nuclear non-proliferation as India feels no compulsion to respond to the many constructive measures we have proposed for keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons. The criticism against Pakistan over the nuclear issue is unjustified.

We remain committed to using our nuclear programme for peaceful purposes only.

While, in the development of this peaceful nuclear programme, we have acquired a certain technical capability, Pakistan has taken a firm political decision not to use this capability to produce nuclear weapons. Statements made by us reflectng this position are meant as reaffirmation of the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme to preclude any misunderstanding.

Rejects Nuclear 'Roll Back'

BK3011094393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 29 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—The Foreign Minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali categorically said here on Sunday [28 November], Pakistan's present peaceful nuclear programme will continue and under no circumstances will it accept a roll back of this programme.

He said this, while making a statement on country's nuclear policy in the National Assembly.

He said: "We are ready to accept any non-discriminatory and equitable nuclear non-proliferation regime in South Asia. In the absence of such an arrangement, the present government will not change its nuclear policy," he added.

Describing the country's peaceful nuclear programme as an important national asset, the Foreign Minister said, "We will withstand any pressure aimed at eroding the vital economic dimension of our peaceful nuclear programme."

He said "We will continue to explore modalities for achieving a South Asian consensus for the establishment of a nuclear non- proliferation regime on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis."

Asif Ahmad Ali said, in process of the development of its peaceful nuclear programme, Pakistan has acquired some technical capability in the nuclear field adding that this is inevitable result of acquiring self sufficiency in the development of nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes.

He, however, said that a political decision has been taken at the highest level to use this technical capability for peaceful purposes only and not to produce nuclear weapons.

The Foreign Minister recalled that the successive governments in Pakistan have consistently affirmed the fact that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device and does not intend to make one.

He said that in consonance with its commitment to nuclear non- proliferation, Pakistan has also decided not to transfer sensitive nuclear technology to third countries adding that at the same time however, for obvious security reasons, Pakistan cannot forego its options unilaterally and thus place itself disadvantagous position viz-a-viz India, which has refused to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] or to accept comprehensive IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards covering all of its nuclear facilities.

The Foreign Minister said, it is a matter of regret that Pakistan's nuclear programme has been mis-interpreted by some of its friends abroad.

Referring to the application of Pressler law on Pakistan, he said, the Pressler Amendment, which was promulgated to promote nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia, has achieved precisely the opposite result adding that it has not created an atmosphere conducive for promoting non-proliferation in this region and the reasons for this are self evident.

He said, Pressler Amendment is a discriminatory law as it applies only to Pakistan and not to India or other countries which are either known to possess or are desirous of acquiring nuclear weapons capability. This amounts to giving veto to India over Pakistan's defence, he opined.

The diplomacy of the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the Foreign Minister said, has played a part in bringing about the state department's very recent acknowledgement that "The extension of the Pressler sanctions does not advance non-proliferation objectives of the United States in South Asia."

He maintained that as a result of the renewed articulation of Pakistan's policy which has been pursued positively and vigorously, there is much greater sympathy for Pakistan's case in the US.

Asif said "We have tried to pursade the US that India is the nuclear delinquent in the region and Pakistan has always been exercising restraint."

"The result of the Pressler Amendment is to create serious strategic imbalance making it counter-productive viz-a-viz the very objective sought to be achieved", the Foreign Minister said and added "We are hopeful that the US Congress will be able to take these factors into consideration."

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said, despite India's nuclear explosion of 1974 and its vast unsafeguarded nuclear programme, Pakistan has not altered the peaceful nature of its programme and remains committed to the goal of nuclear non-proliferation.

"We are willing to accept any nondiscriminatory and equitable regime for keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons", he added.

Referring to various proposals made by Pakistan for the establishment of nuclear weapons free zone in South Asia the Foreign Minister said, India has not accepted any of the proposals made by Pakistan preventing nuclear proliferation in South Asia.

He said, this attitude is at variance with current international trends and against the interests of peace stability and progress in this region.

He said, the situation has been aggravated by the introduction by India, of sophisticated naval armaments in the Indian ocean which by far exceed India's legitimate defence requirements.

He pointed out that the policy of the present government on the nuclear issue derives from the principled position, Pakistan has historically adopted on its nuclear programme alluding towards the main elements of this policy.

Asif said, Pakistan is an energy starved country and its per capita consumption of energy is one of the lowest in the world even in comparison to other developing countries.

He said, the availability of energy on an assured basis constitutes a vital condition for national economic growth and development adding that an objective assessment of Pakistan's requirements indicates that nuclear power offers a viable means of providing affordable energy for the development of the important sectors of the economy and for meeting the minimum requirements of the people.

He said, Pakistan has benefited considerably from technical assistance from the IAEA in use of nuclear technology in the fields of agriculure, health industry and medicine.

He said, "We have also been able to use nuclear technology to improve our cotton and rice varieties."

He said, Pakistan's policy on nuclear issue has always enjoyed national consensus.

He said, this policy was followed by successive governments in Pakistan including the government of Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. Because of its vital importance to country's economic development and security, political leadership in the country has made conscious efforts to avoid the politicisation of nuclear programme, he added.

He was confident that the house will not depart from this tradition and at the end of its deliberations, the national consensus, which has historically underpinned Pakistan's nuclear policy, will be reaffirmed and indeed reinforced.

Bhutto on Kashmir, Nuclear Issue, Constitution

BK3011092793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that Kashmir is an international dispute and its resolution is essential for ensuring peace in the region. In an interview with the monthly English magazine THE HERALD of Karachi, she said that the world cannot ignore the massive human rights violations being committed by India in the occupied valley. She said it is the imperative need of the hour to settle the issue in accordance with the UN resolutions which call f[]r the right of self-determination for Kashmiris.

On the nuclear issue, Bhutto said that we have never believed in nuclear proliferation. She, however, said that no country should expect Pakistan to take a unilateral position in this respect, particularly in view of its security concerns.

Answering a question on repealing the eighth amendment [giving the president discretionary powers to dismiss the prime minister and dissolve the National Assembly], the prime minister said her government wants to totally eliminate this amendment.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Iran

LD2711201693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] Iran and Pakistan have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of economics, commerce, transport, oil, gas, weaving, and railways. According to the Central News Unit from Islamabad, the memorandum was signed in Islamabad this afternoon, at the end of three days of talks between high-ranking economic delegations, by our country's deputy transport minister for economic affairs and the deputy economics and financial affairs minister of Pakistan.

The memorandum of understanding deals with ways in which joint projects can be implemented by the two sides in the above fields, as well as with the progress made in relation to decisions adopted in the seventh session, held last year in Pakistan, of the two countries' joint economics commissions attended by the ministers of the two countries.

Foreign Minister Asks Afghanistan To Release Soviet POW's

BK3011103993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has urged rival Afghan leaders to resolve their differences through peaceful negotiations. Talking to Afghan Deputy Prime Minister Qutbuddin Helal in Islamabad yesterday, he expressed concern over the escalation of military tension in Afghanistan which has resulted in armed clashes in different parts of that country. He appealed to the Afghan leadership to release prisoners of war of the erstwhile Soviet Union in their custody.